

# 1 Corinthians 6:20

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

## Analysis

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**For ye are bought with a price** (ēgorasthēte gar timēs, ἡγοράσθητε γὰρ τιμῆς)—redemption language. Agorazō (ἀγοράζω, 'purchase, buy') was used for slave markets; timē (τιμή, 'price') is singular and emphatic—the price, Christ's blood (1 Peter 1:18-19). Believers are purchased property, slaves of Christ (7:22-23), a status that paradoxically brings true freedom. Ownership determines use: you're not self-owned but Christ-bought.

**Therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.** Doxasate dē ton theon en tō sōmati hymōn (δοξάσατε δὴ τὸν θεὸν ἐν τῷ σώματι ὑμῶν)—aorist imperative, urgent command. Doxazō (δοξάζω, 'glorify') means to honor, magnify, reveal God's worth. The body is instrument of worship. 'And in your spirit, which are God's' is textually disputed (absent in many manuscripts), but the point stands: whole-person worship, body included. Sexual purity, like bodily resurrection (v. 14), declares God's glory. Holiness is doxology.

## Historical Context

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Slave redemption (ransom from bondage) was common in Roman Corinth. Corinthian Christians, some literally freedmen/slaves, understood: they'd been purchased from sin's slavery into Christ's liberating ownership. The twist: this Master demands holiness, not exploitation. Paul applies economic metaphor to cosmic transaction—Christ's death as purchase price. 'Glorify God in your body' was countercultural: bodies were for pleasure or labor, not worship. Paul insists:

bodily actions (eating, sex, work) are liturgical—they either honor or dishonor the Owner.

## Related Passages

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**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

**Psalm 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

## Study Questions

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1. How does viewing yourself as 'bought with a price' shift your sense of obligation from guilt-based to gratitude-based obedience?
2. What specific bodily practices (sexuality, eating, rest, generosity) can you reframe as acts of worship that glorify God?
3. How can the church celebrate the body as instrument of divine glory without falling into legalism or body-obsession?

## Interlinear Text

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ἡγοράσθητε	γὰρ	τιμῆς·	δοξάσατε	δὴ	τὸν	Θεοῦ	ἐν
ye are bought	For	with a price	glorify	therefore	G3588	God	in
G59	G1063	G5092	G1392	G1211		G2316	G1722
τῷ σώματι ὑμῶν, καὶ ἐν τῷ πνεύματι ὑμῶν, ἅτινά							
G3588	body	your	and	in	G3588	spirit	your
G4983	G5216	G2532	G1722		G4151	G5216	G3748
ἐστιν τοῦ Θεοῦ							
are	G3588	God					
G2076		G2316					

## Additional Cross-References

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**1 Corinthians 7:23** (Parallel theme): Ye are bought with a price; be not ye the servants of men.

**Romans 12:1** (References God): I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

**1 Peter 2:9** (Parallel theme): But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:

**1 Peter 1:18** (Parallel theme): Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers;

**Philippians 1:20** (Parallel theme): According to my earnest expectation and my hope, that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but that with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ shall be magnified in my body, whether it be by life, or by death.

**Acts 20:28** (Spirit): Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.

**Galatians 3:13** (Parallel theme): Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree:

**Hebrews 9:12** (Parallel theme): Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us.

**1 Corinthians 10:31** (References God): Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.

**Revelation 5:9** (References God): And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation;

