

Second Hand Preacher

Second Sunday of Ordinary Time

January 18, 2015

1 Corinthians 6:13c-15a, 17-20

Mind and body dualism is a great subject for philosophers. I remember studying this concept during my pre-theology year in the Seminary. There were notions that the mind was superior to the body. St. Paul knew of this but he wanted to stress the relationship of the Spirit to the mind and the body. He believed that there was good in all three and he wished to preach this to the Christians in Corinth. They lived in a port city that would have been exposed to great immorality. Paul wanted to protect his flock from these actions hoping that they would be able to remain strong in the face of great temptation. This letter was meant to help guard against some of the shortcomings of the community. This letter became universal and it was meant to help Christians of every age.

Immorality of the body was seen as a serious sin. We would agree with this today but we also believe there is forgiveness to those who repent. There is a tendency to look at sexual sin as something nearly unforgivable. It is true that it is serious but we have a God whose mercy endures forever. We as Christians need to be repentant of all of our sins. We need to ask for forgiveness and then do our best to live up to what Jesus says to the woman caught in adultery, "Go and sin no more." We have a loving and merciful God who is definitely a God of second chances. In fact, as long as we are contrite there is no limit to his mercy. Our God wishes us to make good choices in the way we use mind and body. We as Christians are called to especially live in the Spirit. We are to be grateful for what we have been given and that our love of God may be reflected in how we love one another.