

1 CORINTHIANS

gospel formed relationships / discussion guide



OVERVIEW FOR PART 2:

Join us as we walk through the Apostle Paul's first letter to the Corinthians. We'll see the many cultural similarities between the pacific northwest and ancient Greece, as well as be challenged in how we are designed to live out the gospel through the local church.

In the second mini-series we will see how God designs relationships and the inner workings of church life, even when things are hard.

PART 2: WEEK THREE Our Bodies are His Body

Text: 1 Corinthians 6:12-20

The city of Corinth was full of sexual immorality. In the center of the city was a temple to the goddess Aphrodite. The temple was surrounded by cult prostitutes. Party hosts insured prostitutes were provided at most parties. On the way home from work, most men would pay visit to a prostitute on their commute. It was normal to think of sexual pleasure mainly being experienced outside of marriage, and wives existing primarily for procreation, strategic political alliances, raising future heirs, and caring for and securing the home.

The Corinthian Christians fully engaged in the sexual immorality of their culture using popular slogans to justify their behavior. “All things are lawful for me” was another way of saying “We are free to do whatever pleases us.” To which Paul reminds them that not all things are helpful, and I will not be dominated by anything. Christian freedom doesn’t mean we are free to do whatever we please. Christian freedom means we have the power of God’s Spirit to enable us to do what most pleases God and does good to others. Sexually immorality, which is any kind of sexual activity outside of the covenant of marriage between a man and a woman, displeases God and harms others and self. Another one of their slogans reduced their sexuality to a bodily function that needs to be fed no different than your stomach. To which Paul reminds them that the body does not exist to feed sexually immoral desires. The Body is for the Lord and what honors his desires. “Well the body is going to be destroyed anyway,” they said. “So, who cares what you do with it?” Paul reminds them that just as Jesus was raised from the dead with a glorified body, they also will be raised. We are not souls with a body that will be destroyed. We are bodies as well and what we do with our bodies now has eternal ramifications.

To all of this Paul reminds them that God has purchased our bodies with the price of his own Son, Jesus Christ. We are so valuable to God! Because of Jesus, we are cleansed of our sin and God has made us to be a pure and holy temple in which God’s Spirit dwells. And if we belong to God, through faith in Jesus, we are one with Jesus. Whatever we do with our bodies includes Jesus now. So, to engage in sexual immorality is to bring Jesus in to what is unholy. That is why Paul commands us to flee sexual immorality and instead glorify God with our bodies. Our bodies are a worship center and God is calling us to worship and glorify him by how we handle our bodies with sexual purity. Glorifying God means displaying the truth of what God is like through what we do. In this case, what we do with our bodies should display what God is like in how He relates to us.

Read: 1 Corinthians 6:12-20

1. What is true of our bodies?
2. What does that say about who God is and what who we are?
3. If we are supposed to glorify God (show the truth of what He is like and how He relates to us) with our bodies, how should we do that in regard to our sexuality?
4. Where have we failed to glorify God?
5. How do we need to personally repent and submit to God’s ways?