

Summit Woods Baptist Church
First Corinthians Sermon Study Equipping Class

1 Corinthians 6:12-20

******You will need to have an assortment of colored pencils, pens, or highlighters on hand for this week's lesson. Remember to begin your study early in the week so that you have time to really think (and keep thinking) about the passage without being rushed.

❖ Day 1

BACKGROUND:

The Corinthians' view of how the universe worked—their worldview—was dominated by the ideas of Plato. The basic idea Plato promoted was that everything had a perfect, spiritual form in another plane of existence that was corrupted and now appears as the current physical form. The thought was that at death, the corrupt flesh would cease to exist, and the spirit would return to its ideal state, free from the constraints of the corrupt body. This worldview, now known as Dualism, resulted in the misunderstanding that the actions of the body had no spiritual or eternal or moral significance. Eating or sex or exercise or other physical activities had no bearing on the attainment of the spiritual ideal because the body was going to be destroyed. Paul displays the unbiblical nature of this worldview and its consequent actions in this passage.

Read 1 Corinthians 6:12-20. FOR THIS WEEK, THE SCRIPTURE TEXT DIAGRAM IS ON THE LAST PAGE.

1. On the printed text on the last page of the handout, mark the words that appear three or more times in the text. Mark each word (or phrase) with its own color. (Mark all of the references to the three persons of God in one color.)
2. Other than references to God (Father, Son, and Spirit), what is the most repeated word in the passage?
3. List the things that Paul says about the body in the passage.
4. Throughout the passage, note at least one way that we in our bodies relate to each person of the Trinity (Father, Son, and Spirit).

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5. Following his introductory remarks, Paul presents three points to support his view concerning the body and sexual immorality. Looking at the text, how do we know that he has three things to say?
6. Based on verses 12-13a, what is the Corinthians' view of the body? (Hint: What do they think will happen to the body in the end?)
7. What is Paul's point in distinguishing between God destroying the stomach and food but raising the body?

❖ Day 2

Read 1 Corinthians 6:12-20 again.

Each of the three sections from verse 15 to verse 20 contains information (indicatives) and a call to action (imperatives).

8. From verse 15, what information should the Corinthians know?
9. What is the implied call to action in verse 15?

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10. From verses 16-18, what information should the Corinthians know?

11. What is the call to action in verses 16-18?

12. From verses 19-20, what information should the Corinthians know?

13. What is the call to action in verses 19-20?

14. According to verse 19, why should we be concerned about what we do with our bodies?

15. In broadest terms, what is supposed to take place in God's temple?

16. So then, how should "your body [being] a temple of the Holy Spirit" influence your approach to the things you do on a daily basis?

17. In verse 19, Paul says to the Corinthians, "You are not your own." So then, whose are they?

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18. What is the price that was paid for them?

❖ Day 3

Read 1 Corinthians 6:12-20 again.

19. “Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food” represents the idea that there is a thing meant to satisfy the appetite. The Corinthians, like many have done throughout history, were equating the stomach’s hunger for food with the body’s hunger for sex. Since eating food to satisfy one’s physical hunger was a natural thing, they concluded that satiating the body’s physical desire for sex must also be a natural thing to do – at any time with any body. But Paul says this is not so. What does Paul say is the purpose of one’s body?

20. Throughout the passage, how does Paul show that sex is not a merely physical act?

Paul uses the dramatic picture of engaging in sex with a prostitute, but the same applies to all sexual immorality (to all sexual conduct outside of the covenant marriage relationship).

21. In verse 15, the Greek word for ‘take’ is ‘aras’, which speaks of removal. What feelings does the word picture of ripping a body part off of Christ Jesus and attaching it to a prostitute produce in you?

22. In one or two sentences, contrast Paul’s conclusions about the eternal significance of the body to the Corinthians’ view of the body as insignificant.

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23. In this passage, Paul is specifically addressing sexual immorality, but how can we use the same principles to help us evaluate other actions we take or might consider taking?

24. Think about your own life and actions. What actions did you not see as having eternal and spiritual significance that you do now as a result of studying this passage?

In preparation for Sunday, pray that our worldview would be defined by God's Word and not the world's philosophies. Pray that our actions would correspond to our biblical thinking and that we would glorify God in everything that we do in our bodies, especially our sexual activity.

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I. The Corinthian's view of the body's insignificance (12-13a)

II. Paul's overview of the body's significance (13b-14)

III. Actions in light of the truth

- Info: Our bodies are part of Christ's body. (15)
- Action: So don't tear them off and give them to another.

- Info: We are in union with the one to whom we give ourselves. (16-18)
-- Either a prostitute (16)

-- Or Christ (17)

- Action: So flee from joining with immorality. (18)

- Info: The Holy Spirit of God dwells within our bodies. (19)

- Action: So worship, serve and glorify the one who owns you. (20)

¹² "All things are lawful for me,"

but not all things are helpful.

"All things are lawful for me,"

but I will not be dominated by anything.

¹³ "Food is meant for the stomach

and the stomach for food"

—and God will destroy both one and the other.

The body is not meant for sexual immorality,

but for the Lord,

and the Lord for the body.

¹⁴ And God raised the Lord

and will also raise us up by his power.

¹⁵ Do you not know

that your bodies are members of Christ?

Shall I then take the members of Christ

and make them members of a prostitute?

Never!

¹⁶ Or do you not know

that he who is joined to a prostitute

becomes one body with her?

For, as it is written,

"The two will become one flesh."

¹⁷ But he who is joined to the Lord

becomes one spirit with him.

¹⁸ Flee from sexual immorality.

Every other sin a person commits is outside the body,

but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body.

¹⁹ Or do you not know

that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you,

whom you have from God?

You are not your own,

²⁰ for you were bought with a price.

So glorify God in your body.