



Week 2: 1 Corinthians 6:12-20

HIS BODY

Our bodies matter. In his letter to the cosmopolitan and decadent capital of the Roman province of Achaia, the Apostle Paul addresses numerous issues. One prominent struggle was the licentious culture that surrounded the Corinthian believers. Some of them were using prostitutes, claiming that bodily appetites were inconsequential for Christians, just as they seemed to be for everyone else. Paul reminds them that the bodies of Christians are united with the resurrected Christ and, in their risen form, will be eternal. Therefore, what they did with their bodies then, and what we do with ours now, is of great importance.

THE SCRIPTURE: 1 CORINTHIANS 6:12-20

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.

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² The quotation marks around this phrase, have been supplied by the ESV to indicate that it is probably a commonly used slogan and even excuse among the Corinthians for their behavior.

LIFEGROUP QUESTIONS: WEEK 2

OPENING QUESTIONS

1. Can you recall a time in your life when you were at the peak of your health? What kinds of things did you enjoy doing? What would you do again that you can no longer do?
2. What cultural 'norms' around us can appear to be acceptable to Christians even though God describes them as sinful behaviors?

DIVING DEEPER

3. Many scholars speculate that the wording of 1 Corinthians 6:12 contains slogans of the day that were embraced by the Corinthians believers. Can you think of slogans or ideas today that sometimes wander into our hearts or even our churches and lead us astray?
4. The Corinthians seemed to have adopted a sentiment that the body and the soul are not interrelated with one another and so cannot harm one another. Is this attitude at all present in today's culture? How?
5. What, according to 1 Corinthians 6:13 is God's purpose for our bodies?
6. Using the chart below, what else does the apostle tell us about our bodies in verses 15 and 19?

VERSE	TRUTH ABOUT OUR BODIES
15	
19	

7. Discuss the following quote by pastor John MacArthur and its relevance to 1 Corinthians 6:12. "No sin is more enslaving than sexual sin. The more it is indulged, the more it controls the indulger."
8. What do you think Paul means by "every other sin a man commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body"?
9. Although Paul identifies the sin, how does this passage also help those who have experienced past sexual sin and want to find grace and freedom in Christ?
10. Paul's correction is clearly directed towards sexual immorality in Corinth, but there are many ways in which we disregard the stewardship of our bodies. Using the central verses of 1 Corinthians 6:19-20, rephrase the broader principle that Paul is teaching.
11. What are other ways in which we disregard the care and stewardship of our bodies?
12. How is God calling you to think differently about your body after today's study?