



LifeGroup Study

2024-03-10

JESUS IS THE ANSWER

You Are Not Your Own

Leader Notes

OVERVIEW:

Welcome back to our series, Jesus is the Answer. During this four-week series we're looking at 4 major themes in 1 Corinthians that Paul addresses and how Jesus provides the new perspective or answer to them. Our chapters for week 2 are 1 Corinthians 5-7 and our theme is sexuality. Key verses for this week are 1 Corinthians 6:19-20, "Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies." NIV. When it comes to our sexuality, as followers of Jesus, Paul wanted us to know – you are not your own. You have been bought with a price. Let's explore this theme together in group.

ICEBREAKER: Sex and My Family Story

What was your family upbringing like when it came to talking about sex? Was your family open to talking about issues of sexuality, or was sex more of a taboo subject in your family? **Share your story with the group.**

STUDY:

WATCH: Each week of this series, start your study time with this summary of 1 Corinthians.

<https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/1-corinthians/>

WEEK 2:

The Issue: SEX – Some of the Corinthians said, “We’re free to do what we want!”

The Solution: JESUS – Jesus died for your sin. You have been raised a new person in Him.

1. Our basis for sexual integrity – YOU ARE NOT YOUR OWN.

READ: 1 Corinthians 6:19-20

¹⁹Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; ²⁰you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies. NIV

- In his letter, Paul used these verses to build a sexual ethic for the Corinthians. **What teachings in these verses can we use to build a sexual ethic today?**

LEADER NOTE: There are several teachings in these verses we can use to build a sexual ethic. 1. “... your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit ...”. What is the purpose of our bodies? Are our bodies primarily for pleasure, to do whatever we want with? Paul teaches our bodies have a much higher purpose. Your body has been set apart by God for a sacred purpose – a temple of the Holy Spirit – God’s holy dwelling place. 2. “You are not your own ...” Who do we belong to? We are not left on our own. Our body belongs to another – to God. 3. “... you were bought with a price.” What has God done to redeem our bodies? You have been purchased with the blood of Jesus. 4. “Therefore, honour God with your body.” How should we then live? Because we are God’s holy temple and we are not our own – because we have been bought at a price, we should honour God with our bodies.

2. Our Response to Sexual Immorality

- Paul uses the term “sexual immorality” several times in these chapters. Clearly the biblical authors had a sexual ethic. **What would you include under sexual immorality?**

LEADER NOTE: The New Testament word most often used for “sexual immorality” is *porneia*. From this Greek word we get the English word *pornography* which carries the meaning of “selling off”. Sexual immorality is the “selling off” of sexual purity, involving any type of sexual expression outside the bounds of a biblically defined marriage relationship. (see Matthew 19:4-5). Adapted from Got Questions – What is Sexual Immorality?

- Here are some common objections to God’s sexual ethic. Imagine you are talking with a follower of Jesus who brings up one or more of these objections. **How might you respond to these objections? Are there any others you would add?**

Objections:

- 1) Sex outside of marriage is alright as long as we love each other.
- 2) Times have changed. What was wrong in biblical times is no longer considered a sin.
- 3) We're married in God's eyes.
- 4) I can still have a good relationship with God because God understands.

LEADER NOTE: Our conversations around objections to a biblical sexual ethic should be seasoned with both grace and truth. Grace is based on a genuine love and care for the person we are talking with. Truth is based on what we hold to be true from Scripture about a biblical sexual ethic.

READ: 1 Corinthians 6:18

¹⁸ Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a person commits are outside the body, but whoever sins sexually, sins against their own body. NIV

- "Flee from sexual immorality". **What do you think this looks like for us today as followers of Jesus?**

LEADER NOTE: To flee from sexual immorality is to run in the opposite direction to get away from it. In our contemporary culture, sexual sin is just a click away on our device. Like Joseph, we should run away from temptation that can lead to sexual immorality. (see Genesis 39:1-11)

READ the following quote:

Sexuality is God's design. He alone can define the parameters for its use. The Bible is clear that sex was created to be enjoyed between one man and one woman who are in a covenant marriage until one of them dies (Matthew 19:6). Sexuality is His sacred wedding gift to human beings. Any expression of it outside those parameters constitutes an abuse of God's gift. Adultery, premarital sex, pornography, and homosexual relations are all contrary to God's design. That makes those things sinful.

Got Questions: [What is Sexual Immorality?](#)

- **What do you think of this quote? Do you agree with it? Is there anything you would change in it?**

3. Living Pure Lives

READ: Ephesians 5:3

³ But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people. NIV

- What does it look like to live with not even a "hint" of sexual immorality? **Are there areas of your life that you sense God calling you to change based on this teaching?**

LEADER NOTE: To be morally pure we must allow God to help us strain out any impurities that may be polluting our lives. This will likely not happen all at once, although God can radically change us overnight. For many, God calls us to a process where He encourages us to take steps of obedience.

4. Should We Judge Other Christians?

READ 1 Corinthians 5:9-13

⁹ I wrote to you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral people— ¹⁰ not at all meaning the people of this world who are immoral, or the greedy and swindlers, or idolaters. In that case you would have to leave this world. ¹¹ But now I am writing to you that you must not associate with anyone who claims to be a brother or sister^[a] but is sexually immoral or greedy, an idolater or slanderer, a drunkard or swindler. Do not even eat with such people.

¹² What business is it of mine to judge those outside the church? Are you not to judge those inside? ¹³ God will judge those outside. “Expel the wicked person from among you.” NIV

- You know the idea – “We shouldn’t judge.” Well, surprise! Here Paul is telling us we should!
What do you think about what he is saying here?

LEADER NOTE: Paul is telling us here that it is not our responsibility to judge those outside the church. We do, however, have a responsibility to hold one another accountable as followers of Jesus. This is to be done in a spirit of love and grace (see Galatians 6:1)

- Paul is being harsh here. **Can you think of instances where we should be this harsh? Likewise, instances where we shouldn’t be?**

LEADER NOTE: There are many instances where the church has been too harsh, yet there are times to be “harsh” with our fellow believers. For example, Scripture tells us that we are to “admonish” one another (Colossians 3:16). Just as you would shout a warning to someone about to step in front of a bus, so there are times to give clear warnings to one another, to save each other from harm. There are also instances where we should tone down our harsh warnings. For instance – if a person is hurting and in need of compassion (see 2 Corinthians 2:5-8). All of this should with love as the ethic and guiding principle.

5. Washed in Christ

READ: 1 Corinthians 6:9-11

⁹ Or do you not know that wrongdoers will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor men who have sex with men^[a] ¹⁰ nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. ¹¹ And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God. NIV

- In vs. 11 we read, “But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified ...”
- **How does this verse speak to you about our new standing before God?**

LEADER NOTE: In these verses Paul reminds us of our new standing before God. Regardless of your past, sexual immoral activities and/or other sin, you have been washed in Christ. You are now new and clean in Him.

6. Devoted to the Lord

READ: 1 Corinthians 7:32,35

“I would like you to be free from concern ... that you may live in a right way in undivided devotion to the Lord.” NIV

- In 1 Corinthians 7, Paul gives a variety of thoughts around sexual relations in marriage and changing marital status. Paul’s overarching concern here is that the Corinthians would live “in undivided devotion to the Lord.” **How do these verses help you summarize Paul’s teachings in 1 Corinthians 7?**

LEADER NOTE: Paul’s ultimate aim in life was preaching the Gospel of Jesus. This priority is how he framed all of life’s issues, including sexuality. In 1 Corinthians 7, Paul speaks to the Corinthian believers about a variety of issues around sexuality. This was Paul’s response to some of the questions they had asked him. In his response, Paul’s overarching concern was that the Corinthians would live undivided in their devotion to the Lord. He wanted to them to apply this principle to their sexuality.

PRAYER: Spend some time thanking God for his design for our sexuality. Ask Him to work in our church to help us live lives that are honouring to Him sexually.