

Community Group Study Guide Week of June 2, 2019

This week, we looked at the second half of 1 Corinthians 6. Some members of the Church in Corinth had written to Paul with a list of questions and concerns about the health of their church. Here we see Paul begins to answer some of the questions they had about marriage and singleness, but first he begins by teaching them how to view sex through the lens of the Gospel.

Like our world today, the Corinthians lived in a culture that had a very low and primal view of sex. The idea of sex and marriage being exclusively inseparable would have been very new to the members of the church who didn't share a Jewish background. Many people mistakenly believe that Christians view sex as dirty or shameful. In reality, Christianity does not present a low view of sex, but a profoundly high view of sex. It is a good gift from God, but a gift loaded with so much purpose and power that it is given to us with strict guidelines. When used properly, sex can bring life, and pleasure, and intimacy. The "proper" use prescribed by God is the marriage covenant between one man and one women. Taking sex outside the confines of this relationship is like taking the flames out of a fireplace. Used improperly, sex bring heartache, destruction, and death.

Paul exhorts the Corinthians to not settle for their culture's debased view of sex. Instead, he calls them to have a higher view of their physical bodies. Their bodies were not "meant for sexual immorality, but for the Lord." They were not made to be dominated by their broken sinful desires, but to be raised up with Christ in victory. They were not called to worship sex, but to worship the one who invented sex. Their ultimate hope is not sexual intimacy, but the eternal intimacy in Christ that sex and marriage point us toward. Before coming to Christ, the Corinthians were dominated by their desires and trapped in a vicious cycle of sin, guilt, and shame. At the end of chapter 6, Paul reminds them that they are no longer slaves to sin, but now have a new master, Jesus Christ. To purchase their redemption, Jesus paid for their freedom with His own blood shed on the cross. Therefore, they now belong to Jesus, a kind and generous master, and must use their bodies to glorify Christ.

This week's topic is particularly delicate. It might be difficult for those dealing with the shame of sexual sin to be honest and transparent, especially with members of the opposite sex. You might want to consider dividing your CG in groups of men and women as you discuss the text and sermon this week. Every one of us has sexual desires that have been distorted by sin. The solution to putting our sin to death is multifaceted, but must the process must be immersed in the Gospel. As Pastor Jan said, lust kills love, but love kill lust. To maintain a loving focus requires both the lens of God's grace and the lens of God's truth. When we put these together we can clearly see, and lovingly fight, to put our sin to death.



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DISCUSSION GOALS

Head

To understand the unique power and danger of sexual sin, but also the high view Scripture has for our physical bodies.

Heart

To trust that God's design for sex is what is best for us, and that sex is a good thing but not an ultimate thing.

Hands

To repent of sexual sin and glorify God with our bodies.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Membership or Baptism:

Contact

admin@mosaicboston.com to sign up for our next membership class or learn more about baptism.

Mosaic JP:

Please keep Mosaic JP and other faithful Boston church plants in your prayers. If your CG would like to serve Mosaic JP together on a Sunday please contact andy@mosaicboston.com.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Read 1 Corinthians 6:9-20

- The world views sexual sin as a form of freedom, but Paul calls it a form of slavery (v12). How does the attitude of “all things are lawful for me” lead to being “dominated”?
- The world also views sexual desire as an appetite like hunger or thirst. In what ways is sexual desire similar to these appetites, and in what ways does Scripture show us it is much different?
- In what ways is sexual sin also different from other kinds of sin? What does Paul mean when he says it’s a sin against our own body?
- Instead of seeing ourselves as animals with urges, Paul calls us to have a high and Spiritual vision for our physical bodies. How does the understanding of being “made for the Lord,” “a temple of the Holy Spirit,” and “bought with a price” help us fight sexual temptation?
- Look at verse 13. Sex is not an ultimate or eternal thing. Instead, we must see it as an aspect of marriage which is itself merely a scale model of the Gospel. How does this understanding protect us from distorting the purpose of sex, or mishandling the power of sex? How should it confront and encourage those who must abstain from sex entirely?

Read Matthew 5:27-30

- Jesus understood that lust was a temptation common to all people. Where in your life have you felt, or do you feel, Satan tempting you to ignite the flames of lust in your heart?
- Are there things in your life that you have “cut off and thrown away” to fight the sin of lust? What practical wisdom can we gain from this for ourselves, our community, and even our children/families?
- What things have you found to be helpful for extinguishing the flames of lust when they show up?
- How does the Gospel help us to fight sexual sin and temptation, and help us get back up and keep fighting even after we’ve failed and given in to sin?