Subject: Sermon Recap -- No, Really, Whose Are You? | 1 Corinthians 6:11-20, Part 1

Dear Church Family,

God's word is truly a gift; something we can all be thankful for as He invests in us. The passage we examined calls us to honest self-examination -- not to produce guilt, but to produce clarity about who we belong to and how that reality ought to shape every dimension of our lives. A variety of discipleship materials related to this teaching can be found [HERE]

**Summary**: The sermon began the exploration of Paul's teaching in 1 Corinthians 6:11-20, beginning with the sobering truth that unrighteousness, left unaddressed, carries eternal consequences. Against that backdrop, the gospel shines with extraordinary power -- we who were broken and unrighteous have been washed, sanctified, and justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of God. The sermon pressed us to reckon honestly with the ways we, like the Corinthians, are tempted to construct a version of faith that accommodates the desires of our flesh rather than submitting to the transforming work of the Spirit. It challenged us to reject the cultural pull toward self-serving contentment and instead anchor our identity, our priorities, and our daily choices in Christ alone -- pursuing what is genuinely profitable for our souls and for His kingdom.

**Takeaways**:

1. You cannot negotiate the terms of your salvation. God's Word does not bend to our preferences, and the grace extended to us at Calvary is not a license to continue in sin. As the sermon stated plainly, "You and I don't get to rewrite, ignore, or twist God's Word to justify what our sinful heart's desire." The washed, sanctified, and justified life is a life being actively conformed to Christ - not a life unchanged.

2. Biblical contentment is anchored in Christ, not in circumstances or accumulation. The sermon drew on Solomon's reflections in Ecclesiastes to demonstrate that the pursuit of pleasure, achievement, knowledge, power, and possessions apart from God **is** vanity - a grasping for the wind. True contentment is a settled sufficiency rooted in the person of Jesus Christ, formed by grace and practiced daily, and it is decidedly not about us.

3. Being profitable means investing in what has eternal value. Paul's question -- whether all things are truly helpful or beneficial -- invites us to examine our time, money, identity, relationships, and faith practices against the standard of God's Word. Profitable living means knowing God, growing in Christlikeness, making disciples, serving others in love, and stewarding faithfully what He has entrusted to us -- all for His glory and not our own.

As we carry these truths into the week ahead, let us resist the temptation to return to the world's offerings for our identity and satisfaction. Let us instead pursue the Spirit's transforming work with open hands and willing hearts, remembering that we were bought at a price and that we belong entirely to the One who redeemed us.

In His grip,

Pastor Jim

# 1 Corinthians 6:11-20
# No, Really, Whose Are You? – Part 1

## I. Introduction: The Reward of Righteousness

Additional Scripture References: 1 Cor 6:9

## II. 1 Corinthians 6:11: It's About Souls & Our Eternal Destiny

- Awake church, your King is calling!

Additional Scripture References: 1 Cor 6:11

## III. 1 Corinthians 6:12-17: Standing Before God

- Biblical contentment is a settled sufficiency, regardless of our circumstances.
- Doing, accumulating, and living things our way, in our power, for our glory is akin to chasing the wind.
- Scripture teaches us many ways to be "profitable", including:

Additional Scripture References: Eccl 1:14, 1:7, 2:11, 2:17, 2:24-26; 4:5-6; 4:16; 6:9

## IV. Closing: Nurturing Contentment in Our Lives

- Pastor Jim offers six ways we can nurture biblical contentment in our lives, including:

These notes are NOT a transcript. The actual sermon may include considerable

Slide 2

# No, Really, Whose Are You? – Part 1
# 1 Corinthians 6:11-20

## I. Introduction: The Reward of Righteousness

1. Understanding the thrust of verses 12-20 requires we back up and include verses 9 and 11. Before examining Paul's teaching in this passage, let's briefly consider an important truth he relays in v9:

Slide 4

Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? – 1 Cor 6:9

In this, Paul establishes a sobering reality: our unrighteousness, left unaddressed, is a one-way ticket to hell. Thankfully, by Jesus' sacrifice and our receiving His gracious gift of salvation (on His terms), we can be declared righteous in God's sight and granted the great privilege of Jesus being our eternal dwelling place.

2. Imagine signing a contract without reading the fine print. You get to the end, smile, and say, "I agree to everything—except that part!"

But that's exactly how many people approach God. They want His promises, His forgiveness, and His heaven—but they approach God as though negotiating a contract where we get to determine our own accountability to His standards.

Here's the point: You and I don't get to rewrite, ignore, or twist God's Word to justify what our sinful heart's desire. We may convince ourselves that our choices are harmless, or even that God approves of them, but we cannot change the truth by changing what Scripture says. God knows exactly where our natural desires lead – and because He loves us, He warns us, confronts us and actively calls us away from sin and toward holiness. This is not about protecting our comfort; it's about protecting our souls and our eternal destiny.

Slide 6

Slide 8

## II. 1 Corinthians 6:11: It's About Souls & Our Eternal Destiny

1. It's this point Paul nails home in v11 where we read:

   And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God. – 1 Corinthians 6:11

2. The arc of all history rests here in Paul's words; this is the gospel. For you see the Corinthians, you and I are, apart from God, broken and unrighteous. But in the death and resurrection of Christ, the Spirit of God transforms us into His image (Ro 15:16) as:

   A. They and we were/are washed by God's mercy (Titus 3:5) through His Word (Eph 5:26);

   B. They and we were/are sanctified (Hebrews 10:10) by the Word of God (John 17:19) as we received His forgiveness and our inheritance in faith (Acts 26:18); and

   C. They and we were/are justified, declared just in God's eyes by His very own work on Calvary (Ro 3:24).

3. One commentator noted that while the Corinthians walked in the gifts, they did NOT understand what it meant to be Spirit-filled people. We, on the other hand, suffer from a very different plague. **We too often know of the Spirit and His work, but we are dismissive or even fearful of His transforming and empowering work in our lives.**[1]

   Look, I am about to share some hard, maybe even uncomfortable or offensive, words. I tried deleting them, repeatedly. I am not trying to soften them by this preamble…I am saying we get to follow Christ in absolute victory – or we can snatch defeat from the

---

[1] Gordon D. Fee, *The First Epistle to the Corinthians*, The New International Commentary on the New Testament (Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1987), 248.

jaws of victory in our stubbornness, comfortability, apathy, and whatever else is leaving us lukewarm or worse for Jesus. Even for those that are walking obediently with the Lord…these words are for us…do we have a burden for those that are not?

A. How does being dismissive or even fearful of His transforming and empowering work in our lives make sense? How is this honoring God? Why are we being disobedient in rejecting the supernatural leading and power of God? Do we and the world NOT need God in a very real and desperate way? Hello…Hello church of the living God, are you awake?

   We have been saved, so what are we doing with our new life…living it for ourselves OR for the One that saved and sanctifies us? It seems the plain evidence all around us should wake and spur His authentic church to welcome and walk in all (little/big and everything between) the Spirit has for us!

   Brothers & sisters, the Lord knows we don't flip a switch and move to being on fire forever more. The point isn't perfection, it is about fanning the flame of our hearts for Jesus…it's about faithfulness in taking the next and next and next steps of obedience, together in biblical community, for His glory.

Slide 10

## III. 1 Corinthians 6:12-17: Standing Before God

1. Who or what has power over your life?

2. It seems the Corinthians had done some serious spade work in reconciling God's word to their desired way of living. They had created a religion that included Christ and the lusts of their flesh. In keeping with the culture around them, they had convinced themselves they could do as they pleased with their bodies (and they were) and still think they were pleasing God in the spiritual realm.

3. In their way of thinking, they could violate God's creation. What's more they had corrupted God's grace – His sacrifice poured out at

Calvary…and for what?! What they forgot is the law does NOT justify us. Nor does grace excuse us.

For you see God, created us as one being - body, mind, and spirit - and while mankind looks for any way possible to bite the forbidden apple of the sin in our hearts, neither God's standards nor our accountability to Him waiver. While not exclusive to sexual immorality, His standards certainly include it.

4. Paul is laying all this out while asking if they are ready to throw away the salvation given them. Let's be clear about the two primary biblical precepts in view here. While making known they are NOT to walk in sexual immorality, He doesn't stop there. He is reminding them that the authentic follower of Christ doesn't just combat sin in their lives, but seeks to glorify God in body and spirit.

Slide 12

5. For me, Paul's words here are gut wrenching – the grace they used as an excuse to sin, God meant as an opportunity to bring Him more glory. Specifically, Paul is rejecting the Corinthians use of Christian liberty to seek sexual self-satisfaction when God means this liberty is an unbounded opportunity to love and disciple people into the kingdom of heaven. It is, as we studied last week, an opportunity to lay down our rights in the unity and glory of God.

6. As I wrestled with this passage, God kept bringing to mind the Corinthians lack of 'contentment' with the gospel Paul gave them as they instead made up their own.

   I suspect many of us also struggle with what contentment is and how to nurture it in our lives. So, with your permission, I'd like to go ahead and explore this. // What I hear when I read Paul's words is:

   A. Are you here to please yourself? Were you made for sensual pleasure? Were you made to achieve great self-congratulatory things or to have your identity and victories in the things of this world? Is your life mission to get/take what you can and/or want? Are you here to know (and therein live the best possible

life in man's sense) as much as possible or to be known by the One that made, redeemed, and is even now transforming you?

Corinthian (Aikenite)…you sought after the things of the world thinking they would bring you the ever-changing elusive contentment you desire. Instead, these things dominated your every thought and effort to the point of your pending destruction.

B. While pleasing, biblical contentment is NOT about sexual conquests, performance, and accumulation of experiences, assets, and knowledge. It is NOT passivity or lack of ambition. Contentment is neither denial of reality nor is it fake authenticity. Biblical contentment is NOT indifferent to injustice, nor is it a personality trait for it is formed by grace and practice. Finally, contentment is decidedly NOT about 'me'.

Slide 14

C. <u>Biblical contentment IS a settled sufficiency regardless of circumstances.</u> Contentment does not depend upon our control, efforts, nor outcomes. Contentment requires we see victory as does Christ. Simply stated, contentment is anchored in the person of Jesus Christ and NOT in our condition nor circumstances.

7. Before moving on to how we may tend to and nurture Biblical contentment, let's consider some of the primary areas where the notion of "all things are lawful" may show up in our lives along with the root of distraction and destruction which so often sidelines our walk together with Christ (which I don't think we will get to until the next time ☺).

   A. Under the header of "all things are lawful", it is perhaps helpful to organize 'all things' in three big categories. The first two are what I refer to as the language of priorities and they include (1) Money & Possessions and (2) Time, Attention, & Technology.

   What you invest your time and money in reflects your fondest desires and while we can (and do) spin our words to justify our

choices, not only does God know our real motivations, but He calls us to self-examine in rejecting the depravity lurking in our hearts and living out the goodness of what He offers in the new heart He gifts us.

B. While their priorities were in evidence, it is the third category of "me and my identity" which is most vividly in view in our passage today. The underlying foundation in view includes:

Slide 16

**i. <u>Sexuality and Relationships</u>**

- Pornography (Job 31:1; Matthew 5:28);
- Marriage treated as a disposable contract (Mal 2:14-16; Mt 19:4-6);
- Sexual idolatry in all other forms such as same-sex relationships, bestiality, incest, and prostitution (1 Corinthians 6:9-11, 18-20; Mt 5:27-28; Col 3:5; Heb 13:4);
- Isolation and individualism (Gen 2:18; Heb10:24-25)
- Gossip, public shaming, and cancel culture (Prov 11:13; Gal 6:1);
- Grudges and unforgiveness (Eph 4:31-32; Col 3:13); and
- Gender dissonance. (Gen 1:27; Mt 19:4: Psa 139:13-14

**ii. <u>Work and Rest</u>**

- Striving culture and workaholism (Psa 127:2; Eccl 4:6);
- Busyness as a badge of honor (Mark 6:31; Luke 10:41);
- Neglecting Sabbath rest (Exo 20:8-11; Mark 2:27); and
- Living for retirement and leisure (Luke 12:19-21).

**iii. <u>Body and Appetite</u>**

- Overeating and food as comfort (Prov 23:20-21; Phil 3:19);

- Alcohol misuse and drunkenness (Eph 5:18; Prov 20:1);
- Drugs and prescription dependence as numbing (Gal 5:19-21; 1 Pet 5:8);
- Idolizing fitness and the body (1 Tim 4:8); and
- Comfort and ease as the highest good (Amos 6:1; Luke 9:23).

**iv. <u>Public Persona</u>**

- Feeding the image of my pride (Mt 6:1-4; Gal 1:10; Luke 14:7-11; 1 Cor 4:7; Prov 11:2; Mt 23:25-28; Jn 3:30);
- Crude humor and coarse speech (Eph 5:4; Col 4:6);
- Sarcasm and contempt (Prov 12:18; Eph 4:29);
- Political idolatry, putting ultimate hope in leaders or parties of any side (Psa 146:3; Phil 3:20);
- Revenge and retaliation mindset (Ro 12:17-21); and
- Cynicism toward everything (Phil 4:8; 1 Cor 13:7).

**v. <u>Faith and Biblical Community</u>**

- Consumer Christianity, choosing a church for what it gives me (Mark 10:45; Phil 2:3-4) rather than for Christ, His church, and the clear calling of making disciples (Acts 2:42-47, 20:28; 2 Tim 2:2Phil 2:3-4; 1 Cor 12:7);
- An affirming faith rather than a transforming one (Ro 12:2; 2 Cor 3:18; Titus 2:11-12);
- Lone-ranger faith and sporadic attendance (Heb 10:25; Acts 2:42);
- A God who exists to make me feel better (2 Tim 4:3-4);
- Some form of Jesus-Plus faith, the Prosperity gospel or some other errant pseudo-Christian faith; (Gal 1:6-9; Col 2:8; 1 Tim 2:5-6, 6:3-10; Mt 7:15-20; Ro 16:17-18), and
- Success measured by numbers instead of obedience and faithfulness (1 Cor 3:6-7; Luke 16:15)

8. While NOT all we can say about feeding our identity with more of ourselves and the world's offerings, consider Solomon's words for us in the book of Ecclesiastes. Here, God revealed and inspired the wisest and perhaps richest man that ever lived to share the following examples of futility that is like our chasing the wind when we are living for anyone or anything other than Jesus:

Slide 18

A. **In Ecclesiastes 1:14, we read about work and "life under the sun"**: I have seen all the works that are done under the sun; and indeed, all *is* vanity and grasping for the wind.
- Eccl 1:14, NKJV

Slide 20

B. **In Ecclesiastes 1:17, we read about wisdom and knowledge. We are NOT made to know things, but to be known**: So I set out to learn everything from wisdom to madness and folly. But I learned firsthand that pursuing all this is like chasing the wind. - Eccl 1:17, NLT

Slide 22

C. **In Ecclesiastes 2:11, we read about pleasure, projects, and wealth**: Then I looked on all the works that my hands had done And on the labor in which I had toiled; And indeed all *was* vanity and grasping for the wind. There was no profit under the sun.
- Eccl 2:11, NKJV

Slide 24

D. **In Ecclesiastes 2:17, we read about hating life because of death**: Therefore I hated life because the work that was done under the sun *was* distressing to me, for all *is* vanity and grasping for the wind. - Eccl 2:17, NKJV

Slide 26

E. **In Ecclesiastes 2:24-26, we read of the sinner striving in his strength and wisdom for his gain rather than in God's strength and wisdom for God's glory**: Nothing *is* better for a man *than* that he should eat and drink, and *that* his soul should enjoy good in his labor. This also, I saw, was from the hand of God. [25] For who can eat, or who can have enjoyment, more than I? [26] For *God* gives wisdom and knowledge and joy to a man who *is* good in His sight; but to the sinner He gives the

work of gathering and collecting, that he may give to *him who is* good before God. This also *is* vanity and grasping for the wind.

- Eccl 2:24-26, NKJV

Slide 28

F. **In Ecclesiastes 4:4, we read that our identity derived in man and from the world is foolishness**: Again, I saw that for all toil and every skillful work a man is envied by his neighbor. This also *is* vanity and grasping for the wind. - Eccl 4:4, NKJV

Slide 30

G. **In Ecclesiastes 4:5-6, we read that the quest for the things of this life rob us from the quietness and restfulness God intends in our lives**: The fool folds his hands And consumes his own flesh. [6]Better a handful *with* quietness Than both hands full, *together with* toil and grasping for the wind.

- Eccl 4:5-6, NKJV

Slide 32

H. **In Ecclesiastes 4:16, we read power, position, and popularity are fleeting false gods**: *There was* no end of all the people over whom he was made king; Yet those who come afterward will not rejoice in him. Surely this also *is* vanity and grasping for the wind. - Eccl 4:16, NKJV

Slide 34

I. **In Ecclesiastes 6:9, we read be content in what God gives you**: Enjoy what you have rather than desiring what you don't have. Just dreaming about nice things is meaningless—like chasing the wind - Eccl 6:9, NLT

9. And so we return to 1 Corinthians 6:12, where Paul notes not all things are helpful, profitable, beneficial, or good for you. This begs the questions of what Paul means and how we can be profitable. And while this is a topic we can never fully exhaust, there are some beautiful places to start, including:

   A. The Greek word for helpful or profitable here is (*sympherō*) and it means to heap or bring together good. Since only God is

good, we can say Paul is pointing the Corinthians and Aikenites alike to do the helpful, profitable, or most excellent things.[2]

B. Here are 11 Bible Precepts for Profitable Living:

Slide 36

i. **Be profitable by knowing and applying God's word**. Scripture equips us for every good work, but its value is only realized as we exercise it in life. 2 Tim 3:16-17; Ja 1:22-25; Psa 1:1-3

Slide 38

ii. **Be profitable by pursuing godliness rather than 'me and worldliness'**. Godliness is an eternal gift from God both filling and completing us. 1 Tim 4:7-8, 6:6-10

Slide 40

iii. **Be profitable by making disciples; the church's God-given shared responsibility and privilege**. Jude 3, 2 Tim 2:2; Eph 4:11-16

Slide 42

iv. **Be profitable by abiding in Christ and bearing Spiritual fruit in living out the beatitudes**. Jn 15:1-8; Gal 5:22-23; Mt 5:3-12

Slide 44

v. **Be profitable by serving Jesus and others in love, justly, mercy, and humility**. Gal 5:13; 1 Pet 4:10-11; Phil 2:3-5; Mal 6:8

Slide 46

vi. **Be profitable by faithfully stewarding what God has entrusted to you**. It's not by our works or wallets that we are known and loved by God, but through our faithfulness and obedience. 1 Cor 4:1-2; Mt 25:14-30; Luke 16:10

Slide 48

vii. **Be profitable by pursuing righteousness and NOT sin**. The is good and evil. Good is God and leads to eternal life. Evil may satisfy, but it ultimately produces destruction in ones separation from Jesus.

---

[2] William Arndt et al., A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2000), 960.

Slide 50

viii. **Be profitable by using your active listening, words, and actions to encourage, instruct, correct, and build up the body of Christ**. Words should impart grace, communicate truth, and testify of Christ Jesus. Eph 4:29; Col 4:6; Prov 12:18

Slide 52

ix. **Be profitable by working diligently and serving faithfully**. Do what we do for the glory of God and not myself nor mankind generally. Col 3:23-24; Prov 14:23; Eccl 9:10

Slide 54

x. **Be profitable by growing in wisdom and correction**. A teachable heart welcomes instruction, learns from correction, and becomes increasingly able to appropriate and express Godly wisdom. Prov 9:8-9, 12:1. 19:20

Slide 56

xi. **Be profitable by investing in what has eternal value**. Earthly accomplishments are fleeting, In great contrast, investing in the things of Christ offers eternal significance and value. Mt 6:19-21; 1 Cor 3:12-15; 2 Cor 4:17-18

Slide 58

A great way to sum this up is found in our discipleship ecosystem with profitability meaning knowing God, being Christlike, and investing in His kingdom for His glory as we live and grow in godliness. [*image of discipleship ecosystem*]

## IV. Closing: Nurturing Contentment in Our Lives

1. While God has given us more, far more in these few verses, I want to close today with a starting point regarding how we may nurture contentment in our lives, including:

Slide 60

A. Purpose to know God, receive the identity in Him He gives, and live increasing godliness;
B. Seek God's will as our own;

C. Abide in Him by spending time in prayer, the Word, His creation, and being a faithful part of His Biblical community, the church;
D. Practice the spiritual disciplines. Maybe consider starting with gratitude to Him;
E. Remember His promises and live accordingly; and
F. Resist evil, including our pride, sensuality, selfishness, and desire to be right.

[Prayer]

# 5-Day Devotional
# No, Really, Whose Are You? - Part 1
# 1 Corinthians 6:11-20

**Day 1: Approved and Trusted By God Reading: 1 Cor 6:9-11; Titus 3:3-7**

**Devotional**: The gospel does not begin with what you must do but with what God has already done. Paul's words in 1 Corinthians 6:11 carry the full weight of heaven: washed, sanctified, justified. These are not aspirations. They are accomplished realities for every person who has received Christ. You were not cleaned up and then accepted. You were accepted and then cleaned. The Spirit of God does not patch over the old life; He transforms it entirely. Before you take a single step today, pause and receive this truth: you are not who you were. God's work on your behalf is complete, sufficient, and permanent. Live accordingly.

In what areas of your life do you still live as though you have not been washed and justified?

How would your daily choices change if you fully believed God's declaration over you?

Write out 1 Corinthians 6:11 in your own words and place it somewhere visible. Each morning this week, read it aloud as a declaration of who God says you are before you engage the demands of the day.

**Day 2: All Things Are Lawful, But Not All Things Are Profitable**
**Reading: 1 Cor 6:12-13; Eccl 2:1-11; Phil 4:11-13**

**Devotional**: Solomon possessed everything a man could desire and still declared it all vanity. Paul warns the Corinthians that liberty without wisdom becomes a leash. The question is not only whether something is permissible but whether it is profitable, whether it brings good together in your life and in the lives of those around you. Many of the things quietly consuming our time, attention, money, and emotional energy are not sinful in isolation. But they are masters nonetheless. They crowd out the voice of the Spirit, shrink our capacity for godliness, and slowly redirect our devotion from Christ toward ourselves. Profitable living begins with honest self-examination.

What habits, pursuits, or patterns in your life are lawful but not genuinely profitable for your spiritual growth?

Where have you allowed Christian liberty to become a justification for self-indulgence?

Review how you spent your time and money in the past week. Identify one area where you will intentionally redirect that investment toward something of eternal value, whether prayer, Scripture, service, or discipleship.

**Day 3: The Contentment That Comes From Christ Alone**
**Reading: Phil 4:6-13; Eccl 6:9; 1 Tim 6:6-10**

**Devotional**: Biblical contentment is not a personality trait, a comfortable income, or the absence of difficulty. It is a settled sufficiency rooted entirely in the person of Jesus Christ. Paul writes from a prison cell that he has learned contentment in all circumstances. The key word is learned. Contentment is not natural to fallen human hearts; it is formed by grace and practiced through discipline. The Corinthians were not content with the gospel they had received, so they constructed a version of faith that accommodated their desires. We are not so different. Whenever we reach for more of the world to fill what only Christ can satisfy, we are chasing the wind.

In what circumstances do you find it most difficult to remain content?
What are you currently pursuing that you believe will finally bring you the satisfaction only Christ provides?

Begin a daily gratitude practice this week. Each evening, write down three specific ways God has provided for you today. Do not focus on what you wish were different. Train your heart to see and receive what is already present.

**Day 4: Your Body Is Not Your Own**
**Reading: 1 Cor 6:18-20; Ro 12:1-2; 1 Pet 2:9-10**

**Devotional: The Corinthians believed they could compartmentalize their faith, honoring God in the** spiritual realm while doing as they pleased with their bodies. Paul dismantles this entirely. God created human beings as unified persons, body, mind, and spirit, and He redeems the whole person. The body is not a shell to be used for personal gratification and discarded at death. It is the dwelling place of the Holy Spirit and, therefore, a site of worship. Every choice made with the body is either an act of worship toward God or a declaration of allegiance to something lesser. There is no neutral ground. You were bought with a price. That changes everything.

How does the truth that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit change the way you think about your physical habits and choices?
Are there specific areas of your physical life that you have withheld from God's lordship?

Identify one physical habit, whether related to rest, appetite, sexuality, substance use, or digital consumption, that you will intentionally submit to God this week. Bring it specifically before Him in prayer and ask the Spirit to lead you in a concrete step toward honoring Him in that area.

**Day 5: Profitable Living for the Glory of God**
**Reading: 2 Tim 3:16-17; Col 3:23-24; Mt 6:19-21; Jn 15:4-8**

**Devotional**: The Christian life is not primarily a life of avoidance. It is a life of investment. Paul's concern in 1 Corinthians 6 is not simply that the Corinthians stop sinning but that they begin glorifying God with the full weight of who they are. Profitable living means abiding in Christ, bearing spiritual fruit, serving others in love, stewarding what God has entrusted, and investing in what carries eternal value. Earthly accomplishments fade. Reputation dissolves. Wealth transfers. But what is done in faithfulness to Christ, in obedience to His Word, for the building up of His people and the advance of His kingdom, endures. You were not saved to live for yourself. You were saved to glorify the One whose you are.

Of the eleven precepts for profitable living presented in this sermon, which one most directly addresses a gap in your current walk with Christ?

What would it look like for your daily work, relationships, and habits to be consciously offered to God as acts of worship?

Choose one of the following commitments and begin it today: join a discipleship relationship with another believer, begin a consistent Scripture-reading habit, or identify one specific way you will serve your local church body this month. Do not wait for ideal circumstances. Profitable living begins with a single step of obedience.

# Small Group Study Guide
# No, Really, Whose Are You? - Part 1
# 1 Corinthians 6:11-20

**Opening Prayer**: Pray that the Lord would open your eyes to see and understand His word as you discuss the sermon.

**Key Takeaways**: Query the group for takeaways first...you may stay with one or more of those.

1. The Gospel Transforms Identity Paul's declaration in 1 Corinthians 6:11 is the hinge of the entire passage. The Corinthians were not who they used to be. They had been washed, sanctified, and justified. The same is true for every genuine follower of Christ. Our identity is not found in what we have done or what has been done to us, but in what God has done for us in Christ.

2. Grace Is Not a License The Corinthians had twisted Christian liberty into a justification for sin, convincing themselves that what they did with their bodies had no bearing on their spiritual standing before God. Paul dismantles this thinking entirely. God created human beings as whole persons, body, mind, and spirit. What we do in and with our bodies matters to God.

3. "All Things Are Lawful" Has Limits Christian freedom is real, but Paul draws a sharp distinction between what is permissible and what is profitable. The question is not only "Can I?" but "Does this bring glory to God? Does this build up the body? Does this reflect the identity I have been given in Christ?"

4. Contentment Is Anchored in Christ, Not Circumstances The root of much of the Corinthians' sin was a failure of contentment. Rather than resting in the sufficiency of the gospel, they reached for the world's offerings. Biblical contentment is not passivity, denial, or a personality type. It is a settled sufficiency rooted in the person of Jesus Christ.

5. We Are Called to Be Profitable Being profitable, in the biblical sense, means knowing God, becoming increasingly Christlike, and investing in His kingdom for His glory. It is the natural outflow of a life genuinely surrendered to the One who bought it.

**Discussion Questions**: Did the Holy Spirit prompt any questions with you? Start with those.

1. When you hear the phrase "Whose are you?", what is your honest, gut-level answer? What does your daily life suggest about who or what you actually belong to?

2. Paul says the Corinthians "were" these things, but now they have been washed, sanctified, and justified. What does it mean practically for your daily life that your old identity has been replaced with a new one in Christ?

3. The pastor observed that the Corinthians walked in spiritual gifts but did not understand what it meant to be Spirit-filled people. He also noted that many believers today suffer from the opposite problem, knowing about the Spirit but being "dismissive or even fearful of His transforming and empowering work." Which tendency do you think is more common in your own life? Why?

4. The pastor asked plainly: "We have been saved, so what are we doing with our new life, living it for ourselves or for the One that saved and sanctifies us?" How would you answer that question honestly?

5. The Corinthians had created a version of faith that included Christ and the lusts of their flesh. In what ways do you see this same tendency in modern Christianity? In your own life?

6. The pastor offered a list of areas where "all things are lawful" thinking tends to show up, organized under categories including sexuality and relationships, work and rest, body and appetite, public persona, and faith and biblical community. Which of these categories do you find most challenging to surrender fully to Christ? Why?

7. The pastor described contentment as "a settled sufficiency regardless of circumstances" that is "anchored in the person of Jesus Christ and NOT in our condition nor circumstances." What does contentment look like in a season of genuine hardship or unmet desire? Is there a difference between contentment and resignation?

8. Solomon, the wisest and wealthiest man of his age, concluded that work, wisdom, pleasure, projects, wealth, power, and popularity were all "vanity and grasping for the wind." What does it say about human nature that even Solomon had to learn this the hard way? What does it say about the things we tend to chase?

9. Ecclesiastes 6:9 calls us to enjoy what God has given rather than endlessly desiring what we do not have. What is one specific area of your life where you are struggling to receive what God has already given rather than straining after something He has not?

10. The pastor defined being profitable using the Greek word "sympherō," meaning to bring good together in a heap. He listed eleven biblical precepts for profitable living. Which one or two of those precepts feel most alive and active in your life right now? Which feel most neglected?

11. The pastor noted that "it is not by our works or wallets that we are known and loved by God, but through our faithfulness and obedience." How does this reframe the way you measure success in your spiritual life?

12. The pastor closed by offering six starting points for nurturing contentment. Looking at that list, which one do you most need to take a concrete step toward this week? What would that step look like?

**Practical Applications**: Query the group for applications first...you may explore one or more of those.

1. Know the Word Set aside intentional time this week to read and reflect on 1 Corinthians 6:9-20 in full. Ask God to show you one specific area where His Word is calling you to change.

2. Audit Your Buckets Using the three categories the pastor described, money and possessions, time and attention, and identity, take an honest inventory. Where are you investing most heavily? Does that investment reflect who God says you are?

3. Practice Gratitude as a Spiritual Discipline The pastor suggested starting with gratitude as an entry point into the spiritual disciplines. Each day this week, write down three specific things God has given you that you have been treating as insufficient or taking for granted.

4. Identify One Area of Divided Living Name one area of your life where you have been attempting to hold Christ and a competing loyalty at the same time. Bring it before God in prayer and share it with a trusted member of your group or a spiritual mentor.

5. Memorize a Verse on Contentment Consider committing Philippians 4:11 or Hebrews 13:5 to memory this week. Meditate on what it means to learn contentment rather than simply feel it.

6. Invest in an Eternal Relationship Identify one person in your life who does not know Christ. Pray for them daily this week and ask God for one natural opportunity to speak of Him.

**Closing Prayer Points:**

- Thank God for approving and trusting us with the Gospel
- Genuine surrender of the areas of divided living each person identified
- A fresh willingness to receive and walk in the Spirit's transforming work
- Biblical contentment to take root in each member's daily life
- Courage to be profitable for the kingdom in the week ahead

# Discussion Questions
# No, Really, Whose Are You? - Part 1
# 1 Corinthians 6:11-20

1. Paul declares in 1 Corinthians 6:11 that believers 'were washed, sanctified, and justified' - in what ways do you find yourself living as though that transformation has not fully taken hold, and what might it look like to more completely embrace that new identity?

2. The sermon draws a sharp distinction between an 'affirming faith' and a 'transforming faith' - which of these more accurately describes the faith culture you have experienced, and what is the difference in how each shapes a believer's daily life?

3. The pastor describes the Corinthians as people who 'walked in the gifts' but did not understand what it meant to be Spirit-filled, while suggesting we often know of the Spirit but create obstacles to His work - what obstacles, if any, have you erected against the Spirit's transforming power in your own life?

4. Solomon's repeated conclusion in Ecclesiastes that earthly pursuits are 'vanity and grasping for the wind' stands as a stark warning against finding identity in work, pleasure, or wisdom - which of these three areas presents the greatest temptation for you personally, and why?

5. The sermon reframes Christian liberty not as license for self-satisfaction but as 'an unbounded opportunity to love and disciple people into the kingdom of heaven' - how does this reframing challenge the way you have understood or exercised your freedom in Christ?

6. The pastor defines biblical contentment as 'a settled sufficiency regardless of circumstances, anchored in the person of Jesus Christ' - what is the most significant barrier keeping you from experiencing that kind of contentment right now?

7. Among the five categories of 'all things are lawful' living listed in the sermon - sexuality and relationships, work and rest, body and appetite, public persona, and faith and biblical community -- which area do you think the church most consistently fails to address honestly, and what might faithful engagement with that area look like?

8. The sermon warns against 'consumer Christianity, choosing a church for what it gives me' rather than for Christ and the calling to make disciples - in what ways might your own approach to church participation reflect a consumer mindset, and how could that change?

9. The pastor states that 'what they and we use as an excuse to sin, God meant as an opportunity to bring Him more glory' - can you identify a specific area of your life where

you have framed a sinful pattern as harmless or even acceptable, and what would repentance and reorientation look like in that area?

10. The sermon closes by calling believers to 'resist evil, including our pride, sensuality, selfishness, and desire to be right' - which of these four expressions of sin do you find most difficult to resist, and what spiritual disciplines might help you grow in that area?

# Dinner Conversation Starters
# No, Really, Whose Are You? - Part 1
# 1 Corinthians 6:11-20

1. **“Whose Am I?”**

   Paul reminds believers that we belong to Christ. What does it mean in everyday life to say, “I belong to Jesus”? How might that change the way we use our time, bodies, words, or choices?

2. **Helpful or Just Allowed?**

   The sermon emphasized Paul’s words: “All things are lawful, but not all things are helpful.” Can you think of something that may not be “wrong” by itself, but still might not help you grow closer to God?

3. **Contentment in Christ**

   Biblical contentment is not about having everything we want, but being anchored in Jesus. What is one area where you find it hard to be content? How can we help each other trust Jesus more in that area?

4. **Living for God’s Glory**

   The sermon challenged us not just to avoid sin, but to glorify God with our bodies and spirits. What is one practical way you can glorify God this week at school, work, home, or with friends?

5. **What Has Power Over Me?**

   The message asked, “Who or what has power over your life?” What are some things that can start to control people—like technology, approval, comfort, money, or habits? How can we invite God to lead us instead?

# Family Conversation Guide for Children & Early Teens
# No, Really, Whose Are You? - Part 1
# 1 Corinthians 6:11-20

### AGES 5-7: SIMPLIFYING THE MESSAGE APPLICATION POINTS

1. **Social Groups: Choosing What Helps Me Love God and Others**: Help younger children understand that not everything they can do is something they should do. If a game, joke, or activity leads them to be unkind, selfish, or disobedient, it is not helpful. Friends are laughing at another child or leaving someone out during playtime.

   *Discussion Questions*:
   (a) How do you think Jesus wants us to treat someone who feels left out?
   (b) If everyone else is laughing at something unkind, what could you do?
   (c) What is one way you can be a good friend this week?

2. **Relationships: My Words and Body Belong to God**: Teach children that because God made them and loves them, their words, hands, feet, and actions can honor Him. They can use their bodies to help, serve, comfort, and obey. A sibling takes a toy, and the child wants to yell, hit, or grab it back.

   *Discussion Questions*:
   (a) What could you do with your hands that would honor God?
   (b) What words could you use instead of yelling?
   (c) How can we ask God to help us when we feel angry?

3. **Digital Spaces: Not Everything on a Screen Is Good for My Heart**: Children this age need simple categories: some shows, games, and videos help us think about good things, while others may make us scared, angry, selfish, or disrespectful. A child wants to keep watching videos even after a parent says screen time is over.

   *Discussion Questions*:
   (a) How do you feel after watching that show or playing that game?
   (b) Does this help you obey, be kind, and have peace?
   (c) Why do you think Mom or Dad sometimes says “no” to certain screen things?

### AGES 8-12: BUILDING UNDERSTANDING APPLICATION POINTS

1. **Social Groups: Fitting In Is Not the Same as Following Jesus**: Kids in this stage often feel pressure to be accepted. Help them see that belonging to Jesus gives them a stronger identity than popularity, trends, or peer approval. Friends are pressuring them to join in gossip, crude jokes, bullying, or disrespect toward an adult.

   *Discussion Questions*:
   (a) Why is it hard to say no when a group is doing something wrong?
   (b) What would it look like to honor Jesus in that situation?

(c) How can you be kind without joining in sinful behavior?

2. **Relationships: God Calls Me to Build Others Up**: Paul's teaching reminds us that Christian freedom is not about doing whatever we want; it is about glorifying God. In friendships, that means using words and actions to encourage, protect, forgive, and serve. A friend shares a secret, and others want to spread it.

   *Discussion Questions*:
   (a) Would sharing this information help or hurt your friend?
   (b) What does it mean to use words that "build up" others?
   (c) How could you respond if someone says, "Don't tell anyone, but…"?

3. **Digital Spaces: Ask, "Is This Helpful?"**: Teach kids to use Paul's question: "Is it helpful?" before watching, posting, texting, gaming, or following someone online. A group chat starts making fun of someone, sharing inappropriate memes, or excluding a classmate.

   *Discussion Questions*:
   (a) Is this conversation helpful, harmful, or just entertaining?
   (b) Would you be comfortable if Jesus saw this chat?
   (c) What could you say or do if the group chat turns unkind?

**AGES 11-15: DEEPENING THE CONNECTION APPLICATION POINTS**

1. **Social Groups: Christian Freedom Is Not Permission to Compromise**: Preteens and teens often hear, "Everyone is doing it," or "It's not that big of a deal." Paul's point is that believers ask a deeper question: "Does this honor God, help me grow, and reflect that I belong to Christ?" Friends are normalizing lying to parents, cheating, vaping, sexual joking, crude humor, or disrespecting others.

   *Discussion Questions*:
   (a) What are some things people excuse by saying, "It's not a big deal"?
   (b) How can something be popular but still spiritually harmful?
   (c) What boundaries would help you stand firm before the pressure comes?

2. **Relationships: My Body and My Heart Belong to God**: This age group needs clear, grace-filled conversations about purity, dating, attraction, emotional boundaries, and respect. The sermon reminds us that our bodies are not disconnected from our faith. We glorify God with our whole selves. A teen is navigating crushes, dating pressure, sexualized conversations, or pressure to send/receive inappropriate pictures.

   *Discussion Questions*:
   (a) Why does God care about what we do with our bodies and our hearts?
   (b) What kinds of boundaries help protect a relationship from becoming unhealthy?
   (c) If someone pressures you to hide something from your parents or from God, what does that reveal?
   (d) How can our family be a safe place to talk honestly without fear?

3. Digital Spaces: Your Online Life Is Part of Your Discipleship: Help teens understand that social media, group chats, gaming platforms, and private messages are not separate from their walk with Christ. What they consume, post, like, share, and hide shapes their heart. A teen follows accounts that stir comparison, lust, anger, cynicism, envy, or obsession with appearance and status

   *Discussion Questions*:
   (a) Which apps or accounts tend to make you more anxious, jealous, angry, or discontent?
   (b) What online habits help you love God and others better?
   (c) Are there any digital spaces where you feel tempted to become someone different than who you are in Christ?
   (d) What would it look like to invite God into your online life?

**Tips for Parents**

- Be patient and listen: Give your child time to think and respond.
- Relate to everyday life: Use real-life examples and stories familiar to your child to make abstract concepts more tangible.
- Encourage questions: Let your son or daughter know it's okay to ask questions, even if things don't make sense right away.
- Share personal insights: Tell a personal story about a time you experienced these themes, adapting as needed for age appropriateness.

# Family Conversation Guide for Gen Z
# No, Really, Whose Are You? - Part 1
# 1 Corinthians 6:11-20

1. **Ask More Than "Is It Allowed?"**

   *Bible Reference*: 1 Corinthians 6:12; 1 Corinthians 10:23; Romans 12:1-2

   *Application*: Gen Z is often told, "Do whatever feels right as long as it doesn't hurt anyone." Paul gives a deeper question: not just "Can I?" but "Is this helpful? Is this forming me into Christlikeness? Is this mastering me?"

   *Scenario*: Your friend group is going to a party, watching a show, joining a trend, or participating in a conversation that may not seem "technically wrong," but you know it pulls your heart toward compromise, lust, pride, gossip, or spiritual numbness.

   *Discussion*: What is one area where you tend to ask, "How far can I go?" instead of "Does this help me glorify God?"

2. **Your Body Is Not Separate From Your Faith**

   *Bible Reference*: 1 Corinthians 6:13-20; Romans 12:1; 1 Thessalonians 4:3-5

   *Application*: Following Jesus is not just about beliefs, church attendance, or private spirituality. God cares about what we do with our bodies because our bodies belong to Him. Sexual choices, substance use, self-harm, physical health, and how we present ourselves are all discipleship issues.

   *Scenario*: You are in a dating relationship or talking stage where physical boundaries keep getting pushed. The relationship feels exciting, but you also sense it is pulling you away from obedience to Christ.

   *Discussion*: What would it look like to honor God with your body in dating, singleness, friendship, and online spaces?

3. **Do Not Let Online Spaces Master You**

   *Bible Reference*: 1 Corinthians 6:12; Psalm 101:3; Philippians 4:8

   *Application*: Paul says, "I will not be brought under the power of any." For Gen Z, this applies directly to phones, social media, gaming, streaming, pornography, endless scrolling, and notification-driven living. If you cannot say no to it, it may be mastering you.

*Scenario*: You open TikTok, Instagram, YouTube, Discord, or a gaming app for a few minutes but an hour disappears. Afterward, you feel anxious, lustful, jealous, angry, numb, or distant from God.

*Discussion*: What digital habit has the most power over your attention, emotions, or obedience to God?

4. **Identity Comes From Christ, Not the Crowd**

*Bible Reference*: 1 Corinthians 6:11; Galatians 2:20; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Ephesians 1:4-5

*Application*: Paul reminds the Corinthians, "Such were some of you. But you were washed…sanctified…justified." Your identity is not finally defined by your past, your sexuality, your politics, your trauma, your personality type, your success, your followers, or your friend group. If you are in Christ, you belong to Him.

*Scenario*: You feel pressure to label yourself, brand yourself, or perform a version of yourself so people will approve of you online or in your social group.

*Discussion*: What voice most often defines you: Jesus, friends, social media, romantic attention, achievements, or your own feelings?

**These points aim to empower Gen Z to live out their faith genuinely and courageously in various aspects of their daily lives, reflecting Biblical integrity, compassion, and steadfastness.**