Subject: Sermon Recap - No, Really, Whose Are You? 1 Corinthians 6:11-20 - Part 2

Dear Church Family,

Here is a recap of our study this week. For discipleship resources related to this sermon, please go [HERE].

Summary: The sermon explored Paul's direct and sobering challenge to the Corinthian church regarding the misuse of grace to justify sin, particularly sexual immorality, and what it means to honor God with our whole selves - body and spirit. Drawing on 1 Corinthians 6:11-20, we examined the many ways we are tempted to seek contentment, authority, and freedom outside of Christ, whether through consumerism, endless distraction, curated identity, or sexual sin. The sermon called us to recognize that we are not our own - we were bought at a great price - and that how we steward our bodies and lives is a direct reflection of whose we truly are.

Takeaways:

1. What we give authority to, we will trust, and what we trust, we will give authority to. Whether it is money, technology, entertainment, self-image, or sexual sin, anything we place above Christ becomes a functional lord over our lives. The question is not simply what you do with your time and body, but who or what you are worshipping as evidenced by how you actually live.
2. Fleeing sexual immorality is not merely a matter of moral living - it is an act of honoring Jesus, in whose body we are joined as one spirit. Joseph's response in Genesis 39 gives us a vivid and practical picture of what it looks like to take the exit ramp God provides rather than rationalizing sin for the sake of comfort, convenience, or cultural acceptance.
3. Costly grace demands a response. As Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote, "It is costly because it costs a man his life, and it is grace because it gives a man the only true life." We were bought at the price of Christ's shed blood. That reality should shape every dimension of how we live - not out of fear, but out of deep gratitude and love for the One who did not reckon His Son too dear a price to pay for our lives.

As you reflect on this message throughout the week, consider honestly where you have been seeking contentment in the created rather than in the Creator. If you are walking through a struggle with sexual immorality or any of the patterns discussed in the sermon, know that you do not walk alone. We are a biblical community committed to walking with one another through the hard things, toward the freedom and life found only in Christ.

In His grace and for His glory, Pastor Jim

1 Corinthians 6:11-20
No, Really, Whose Are You? – Part 2

I. Introduction:

II. 1 Corinthians 6:12-17: Standing Before God

- Areas vying for authority in our life include stuff, screens, information sources, and our curated selves.
- To who/what we give authority, we will trust AND to who/what we trust, we will give authority.
- Too many want freedom from Jesus rather than freedom in Jesus because this means they must give up autonomy and authority to Him.
- Living in sin is no casual thing.

Additional Scripture References: Jn 17:20-23, Gen 39:7-21

III. 1 Corinthians 6:18-20: Master Your Body for the Glory of God

- We, body and spirit, are made as one integrated whole.
- Walking in sexual immorality of any sort cheapens God's grace.

Additional Scripture References: Gal 5:16; Psa 63:1

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

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No, Really, Whose Are You? – Part 2
1 Corinthians 6:11-20

I. Introduction:

1. Have you ever justified something you knew was wrong by saying, "It's not that big of a deal"? Maybe it was a private habit, a hidden relationship, a purchase you could not afford, a screen you could not put down, or a desire you kept feeding. The Corinthians were doing something similar. They had taken the beautiful grace of God and turned it into a permission slip to sin.

2. Picking up where we left off in Part 1, we note that the Corinthians wanted the benefits of grace without the authority of Christ. They said, "All things are lawful, but Paul answers, "Not all things are helpful, and I will not be mastered by anything or anyone, but Christ. Today, Paul presses the question of 'whose are you'?

3. As part of this, the BIG IDEA in view is that you, Christian, are NOT your own; you belong to Christ.

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II. 1 Corinthians 6:12-17: Standing Before God

1. In their discontent with the gospel, the Corinthians adopted one more to their liking AND returned to their pagan cultures sexual idolatrous ways. From Paul's pointed response, it seems clear the Corinthians knew they had sinned, but explained it away by saying all things were lawful under God's grace.

2. Without taking away Paul's emphasis on sexual immorality in this passage, we have a great opportunity to consider the many things vying for authority in our lives. Keep in mind to what or who we give authority, we will trust AND who we trust, we will give authority. I want to note 4 groupings of 'all things' for our consideration today. I encourage you to download the sermon notes and other discipleship materials as there is much more detail in here than we can get to today.

A. STUFF: What we buy and bank on.

Too often we look for security and satisfaction in things God never meant to carry them. Your value is not in your stuff. It is in you, created and living out the very image of God given you.

1. Retail therapy. Buying to feel okay, only to find the satisfaction fades before the package arrives. (Luke 12:15; Eccl 5:10)
2. The borrowed lifestyle. Spending money we don't have to live a life we can't afford, and becoming servants to our debt. (Prov 22:7; Rom 13:8)
3. Easy-money dreams. Gambling, sports betting, and get-rich-quick schemes that promise a shortcut and deliver ruin. (Prov 13:11; 1 Tim 6:9-10)
4. Never enough. Trusting wealth for security, or hoarding because we can't stop wanting more. (Luke 12:16-21; 1 Tim 6:17)
5. Crowded-out generosity. A lifestyle so full that there's no room left to give. (2 Cor 9:6-7)

B. SCREENS: What captures our attention.

Screens are too often the currency of our 'time & attention', that which reflects our hearts priorities.

1. The endless scroll. Scrolling, doomscrolling, and outrage that eat our hours, steal our peace, and stir up our anger. (Eph 5:15-16; Ps 90:12; Jas 1:20; Phil 4:6-7)
2. Binge mode. Entertainment that fills every empty moment, so we never have to face ourselves or God. (Phil 4:8)
3. Never unplugged. Constant connection with no silence, when God says "be still." (Ps 46:10; 1 Cor 6:12)
4. The escape hatch. Gaming and screens as a place to hide from real life. (1 Cor 6:12; Eph 5:15-16)

C. SOURCES: Who we turn to for answers and guidance.

Whoever or whatever we trust for truth, wisdom, and comfort becomes our guide and validation. What do you get when you

mix depraved hearts and sophisticated deception(?)…a toxic brew leading you and billions of others away from Christ and life! There is a whole sermon series embedded in this, but let me give you God's summary. It's found in Proverbs 9:10: The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding. So, seek God.

1. Information as idol. Collecting information to feel secure, in control, and right, until knowledge itself shapes our worldview and our identity in place of God. (Eccl 12:12; 2 Tim 4:3-4; Prov 3:5-7; Jas 3:13-18)
2. The soulless counselor. Turning to AI for comfort, counseling, relationship advice, and spiritual exploration. It is always available (frictionless), never tired, and sounds caring, but it has no soul, no Spirit, and no accountability. The more we lean on it, the weaker our own thinking becomes, and the more spiritual trust we hand to a machine built by people. (Jer 17:5-8; Prov 11:14; Eph 4:11-16; Col 2:__; John 16:13-14; Prov 18:1)
3. "My heart says so". Making "follow your heart" the final authority, even though Scripture warns the heart deceives. (Prov 14:12; Jer 17:9)
4. Self-made and self-reliant. Treating independence, self-sufficiency, and personal excellence as virtues instead of leaning on God and others. (Prov 3:5-6; Jer 17:5)

D. SELF: What we build our image, value, and worth on

We too often compare, curate, and achieve to prove we matter.

1. Keeping up. Measuring our lives against everyone else's. (Prov 14:30; Exod 20:17)
2. The curated self. Posting a polished image instead of living honestly. (Matt 6:1; Gal 1:10)
3. Platform hunger. Chasing attention, followers, and fame. (Prov 27:2; Phil 2:3)
4. Image obsession. Putting looks first, when God looks at the heart. (1 Sam 16:7; 1 Pet 3:3-4)

5. Happiness above all. Making happiness life's highest goal, when Jesus says we find life by losing it. (Matt 16:25; Phil 3:8)
6. Résumé identity. Finding our worth in what we achieve instead of in whose we are. (Luke 10:41-42; Gal 6:14)

3. And the underlying list of examples goes on. The point being, what-or-who have you given power in your life? Do the 'all things' in your life keep you from discipling, praying, gathering consistently as the church, Bible reading and study, fasting, Christian meditation, serving, giving, and other disciplines pleasing to the Lord? Since we are designed to worship something or someone…whose are you?

4. Paul is directly addressing two of the Corinthian's "felt needs", including both the needs that feed and those to express who they are. Once we get past the personalities and the lustfulness, these needs are freedom and authority. The sad and shocking part is that it is freedom FROM and NOT IN Jesus. And the authority in view, well, it was their authority and NOT Jesus'.

5. The Corinthians lust had drawn them into mental gymnastics of using some irrelevant point of 'when I am hungry, I eat" in rejecting the gospel in favor of sexual sin. They had fallen prey to one of the enemy's still-most-reliable attacks; convince people the body is their playground with no concern for spiritual consequences.

6. Paul is having none of it though. Instead, as we read beginning at the end of v13 and into v14, the body is NOT for sexual immorality, but it is an instrument by which we are to glorify the Lord; what's more the body is NOT facing destruction, but resurrection found in Christ's victorious resurrection.

7. Please also note the prohibition of sexual immorality is NOT simply a matter of living a moral life, but is about pleasing and honoring Jesus. People can be "good" people in the worlds terms or seemingly living with Christian morals even as they reject objective truth along the highway to hell. You see, we are not saved by

works, but by grace through faith. Confession, repentance, and receiving the person of Jesus Christ as Lord is the only way to heaven.

8. In v15-17, Paul makes clear the child of God is in an abiding relationship with Jesus. We are joined together in 'one spirit with Him'. If you have your bible, I invite you to turn to **John 17:20-23**:

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I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; [21] that they all may be one, as You, Father, *are* in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me. [22] And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one: [23] I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me. - John 17:20-23

We are one with the holy, righteous, sinless One. Let that sink in for a moment…we are one with God.

A. If you bring poison into your mouth does it stay there or spread to the rest of you body. Likewise, sin is NEVER isolated. We may think it stays private, but it spreads; into our hearts, our relationships, and our church.

   What's more, our witness of Christ also suffers. Persistent, unrepentant sin does not merely damage our witness; it reveals we are not truly walking in the grace we claim to have received.

   i. Living in sin is no casual thing. More specifically in this passage, living in sexual sin (even if that sin is called 'casual sex') is anything but casual. The physical union of a man and woman is not simply a physical act. It is a gift from God having physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual effects. It is a gift from a God that loves and cares for us; a gift we throw in our Heavenly Father's face when we use it for our pleasure rather than for His glory.

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9. In **Genesis 39:7-21** we find the story of Joseph and Potiphar's wife; a woman who is intent on seducing Joseph. Joseph has been enslaved to a high placed, wealthy man in Egypt. He is far from home. No family is watching. No church community is nearby. He has every worldly reason to compromise. This woman has power. Saying yes could make his life easier. Saying no could cost him everything. And in that moment, Joseph does not ask, "can I get away with this?" He asks, "How can I do this great wickedness and sin against God?"

   Listen up…Joseph did the right thing, and his life got harder as he was thrown in prison for an extended time. That matters. Sometimes fleeing sin will cost you. It may cost you a relationship. It may cost you popularity. It may cost you an opportunity. It may even cost you your reputation. But Joseph's story reminds us: it is better to be in prison with the Lord than in worldly comfort with a corrupted conscience.

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III. 1 Corinthians 6:18-20: Master Your Body for the Glory of God

1. So, we fast forward nearly 2,000 years. Same God, same truth, same standards. We, just like the Corinthians, are told to flee sexual immorality! Yet the snare of sex continues to trip countless saints…this is a topic Paul speaks of repeatedly. He also offers us a clear answer regarding the 'how" in **Galatians 5:16** where Paul says: "I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh."

2. Egypt, Rome, Corinth, America…their cultural norms embrace sexual immorality. It is one of the primary weapons of the enemy because it is often the weak link in the armor of many men and women. Yes, sex outside of marriage can be satisfying and even enjoyable in the selfish physical sense, but it can't be enriching. This is because sex, while physically pleasing in the moment, is only spiritually enriching when one is giving rather than taking - as God designed exclusively within the intimacy of a covenantal marriage.

3. Paul's words here make clear that what we do with our bodies matters to both one another and to God. In contrast, the Corinthians and many others have and continue to subscribe to the idea the presence of the Spirit negates the body; a view that treats the body as separate from the 'authentic' self. But God, through Paul, is making clear that the presence of the Spirit affirms our body is also His; with how we use it a reflection of His Lordship or NOT.

4. Jesus died for us…both our body and spirit. Yet, it is also true that the body is where the battle between good and evil transpires. It is through our bodies that we both know and are known by others. It is though our bodies that the greatest warfare ever known to mankind comes…the kind of warfare that destroys trust, relationships, and bodies. Warfare against:

    - Sexual purity in Godly marriages;
    - Life in the womb;
    - One's identity in Christ, including gender ideology; and
    - Life after the womb…because you are made in God's image, you have inestimable value. Your value is NOT tied to being part of the mob of man structures, systems, and groups that are sweeping America today. You are part of the bride of Christ, complete with God-given dignity, promises, and hope.

    Your body is not disposable. Your body is not spiritually irrelevant. All of you, including your body, belongs to the LORD Jesus Christ.

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A. Consider the opening half of **Psalm 63:1**: "O God, You are my God; Early will I seek You; My soul thirsts for You; My flesh longs for You…" All of me and all of you was made by and needs Jesus and we, like David, will one day, for all eternity, receive our final redemption of being embodied spirits in the presence of our Lord.

B. In **1 Corinthians 3:16**, Paul referred to the church as a whole as God's temple, but here in v19, the body is singular; meaning each believer is also God's dwelling place. Indeed the word for

temple here means the most sacred part of the temple…you, body and spirit, experience great dignity given by God as we bear the image of Christ through the indwelling power, wisdom, and leadership of the Holy Spirit.

He created both body and spirit. He values both body and spirit. And so should we! If you are walking in sexual immorality, we will walk with you through the challenge of rejecting that lie for the life and promises of Christ in you. If this exposes sin in your life, do not hide. Do not excuse it. Do not despair. Bring it into the light. Confess it to the Lord. Seek help from mature believers. There is grace and mercy in Christ, and there is power in the Spirit to walk in freedom.

If you are not walking in sexual immorality, take continual preemptive steps to protect your reputation and that of your family and church, along with defending the hope that Christ has placed in your heart.

5. A ways back, we noted the Corinthians wanted Jesus as Savior, but not as Lord. They wanted forgiveness without surrender. They wanted the comfort of grace without the claim of grace. They wanted authority to pick and choose the parts of the gospel they liked and the freedom to use their bodies as they chose. They thought it was a good idea to profane God's dwelling place in sexual immorality. Not so very much has changed all these centuries later.

6. As we come to the end of our journey today, Paul lays down Jesus' ownership claim to your life – both body and spirit. 1 Corinthians 6:20 says: "For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's."

   A. Christian, you and I were bought with a price; the price of Jesus' blood shed on Calvary. The price of being "forsaken" by the Father for your and my sins. No matter how many times I read Dietrich Bonhoeffer's 'The Cost of Discipleship", I am

brought to the end of myself as I consider the cost of Jesus' grace. Bonhoeffer says:

"Cheap grace is the preaching of forgiveness without requiring repentance, baptism without church discipline, Communion without confession, absolution without personal confession. Cheap grace is grace without discipleship, grace without the cross, grace without Jesus Christ, living and incarnate.

Costly grace is the treasure hidden in the field; for the sake of it a man will go and sell all that he has. It is the pearl of great price to buy which the merchant will sell all his goods. It is the kingly rule of Christ, for whose sake a man will pluck out the eye which causes him to stumble; it is the call of Jesus Christ at which the disciple leaves his nets and follows him.

Costly grace is the gospel which must be sought again and again, the gift which must be asked for, the door at which a man must knock.

Such grace is costly because it calls us to follow, and it is grace because it calls us to follow Jesus Christ. It is costly because it costs a man his life, and it is grace because it gives a man the only true life. It is costly because it condemns sin, and grace because it justifies the sinner. Above all, it is costly because it cost God the life of his Son: "ye were bought at a price," and what has cost God much cannot be cheap for us. Above all, it is grace because God did not reckon his Son too dear a price to pay for our life, but delivered him up for us. Costly grace is the Incarnation of God."

7. Walking in sexual immorality of any sort (and any other sin) cheapens the grace offered through His death and resurrection. Jesus is an attentive, informed, and loving owner-operator – He does not rent out His home to Satan or the world. So, we are to be ever vigilant against the evil in our hearts and the enemy's relentless desire to corrupt and destroy us and our testimony of our Lord.

8. Brothers and sisters, like the Corinthians, having been washed, sanctified, and justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God, you are set aside in the freedom and authority found only in Christ. Will you accept and live the victory He is offering?

9. Unbeliever, right now Jesus is inviting you to 'come' to Him. Receive His forgiveness, be restored in relationship with Him, and walk in His promises of eternal life and a life of never-ending love, grace, compassion, comfort, joy, contentment, and peace.

[Prayer]

5-Day Devotional
1 Corinthians 6:11-20
No, Really, Whose Are You? - Part 2

Day 1: Bought With a Price - The Cost of True Grace
Reading: 1 Cor 6:18-20; Ro 5:6-8

Devotional: Grace is not a blank check written against the account of God's patience. It is the most costly transaction in the history of creation. Paul's declaration in 1 Corinthians 6:20 -- that you were bought at a price -- is not a footnote to the gospel. It is the gospel's very heartbeat. Dietrich Bonhoeffer drew a sharp line between cheap grace, which demands nothing, and costly grace, which demands everything because it first gave everything. Jesus did not merely offer a better philosophy or a moral framework. He poured out His blood on Calvary and bore the weight of divine abandonment so that you would never have to. When you are tempted to treat your body, your time, or your identity as your own to do with as you please, return to the cross. Stand before it. Let the weight of what was paid on your behalf recalibrate every desire and decision. You are not your own. That is not a restriction. It is the most liberating truth you will ever receive.

In what areas of your life are you living as though you purchased yourself? What would it look like to surrender ownership of those areas to Christ today?
Write down one specific habit, relationship, or decision in which you have been acting as your own authority. Bring it before God in prayer, confessing it and asking for the grace to live under His lordship in that area.

Day 2: Fleeing and Not Negotiating - The Wisdom of Joseph
Reading: Gen 39:7-21; 2 Tim 2:22; 1 Cor 10:13

Devotional: Joseph did not schedule a follow-up conversation with Potiphar's wife. He did not weigh the cultural acceptability of her offer. He did not calculate the career advantages. He fled. His question was not "How far can I go?" but rather "How can I do this great wickedness and sin against God?" That question is the difference between a person who is negotiating with temptation and one who has already settled the matter. The sermon rightly notes that Joseph took the exit ramp when God offered it. God always provides one. The problem is rarely that the exit ramp was absent. The problem is that we slow down to consider whether we really need to take it. Sexual immorality, and every other form of idolatry, grows most dangerous in the moment of hesitation. Joseph lost his garment but kept his integrity, his witness, and ultimately his destiny. What you refuse to surrender to temptation, God is faithful to redeem for His purposes.

Where in your life are you hesitating at an exit ramp God has already provided? What is making you slow down rather than flee? Identify one situation, relationship, or digital environment that consistently places you in the path of temptation. Take one concrete, measurable step today to remove yourself from that path.

Day 3: One With the Holy One - The Gravity of Union With Christ
Reading: Jn 17:20-23; 1 Cor 6:15-17; Gal 2:20

Devotional: Jesus prayed that you would be one with Him as He is one with the Father. Let that settle in before you move on. The God who spoke creation into existence, who parted the Red Sea, who raised the dead -- He prayed for union with you. Paul builds on this reality in 1 Corinthians 6 to make a sobering point: what you do with your body, you do in union with the One who indwells you. This is not meant to produce shame in the believer. It is meant to produce awe. You carry the presence of the living God into every room you enter, every conversation you have, every choice you make. The Corinthians had forgotten this. They treated their bodies as personal property disconnected from their spiritual identity. But the Spirit does not reside in a compartment. He indwells the whole person. When we sin, we do not leave Christ at the door. We grieve the One who chose to dwell within us.

How does the reality of your union with Christ change the way you think about the ordinary, daily choices you make with your body, your time, and your attention? Before each meal today, pause and acknowledge that the body you are nourishing is the dwelling place of the Holy Spirit. Let that awareness shape at least one decision you make throughout the day.

Day 4: All Things Lawful, Not All Things Profitable - Contentment and the Tyranny of "All Things"
Reading: Phil 4:11-13; Eccl 5:10; Luke 12:15-21

Devotional: The Corinthians had discovered a theological loophole, or so they thought. All things are lawful, they reasoned, so all things are permitted. Paul did not dispute the principle entirely. He sharpened it. The question is not merely whether something is lawful but whether it is helpful, and whether it has brought you under its power. This is the diagnostic question for every area of life the sermon surveys -- consumerism, debt, endless scrolling, entertainment, comparison, self-promotion, and more. None of these things may rise to the level of outright sin, yet each carries the potential to become a functional lord in your life. Biblical contentment, as the sermon defines it, is a settled sufficiency regardless of circumstances. It is not passive resignation. It is an active, cultivated trust that what God has provided is enough because God Himself is enough. The person who has learned contentment is not immune to desire. They have simply learned where desire finds its true satisfaction.

Which item from the sermon's list of "all things" exercises the most power over your daily life? How has that power grown, and when did you first give it authority? Choose one form of consumption or digital engagement that has become compulsive rather than intentional. Fast from it for 24 hours. Journal what you feel during that fast and what it reveals about where you have been seeking contentment.

Day 5: Glorifying God in Body and Spirit - Living as His Temple
Reading: 1 Cor 6:19-20, 3:16; Ro 12:1-2

Devotional: The word Paul uses for temple in 1 Corinthians 6:19 refers not to the outer courts but to the inner sanctuary -- the most sacred space in the entire structure. That is what you are. Not a waiting room. Not a courtyard. The innermost dwelling place of God. This is not flattery. It is a statement of divine design and redemptive intention. God created both body and spirit. He values both body and spirit. He redeems both body and spirit. The resurrection of Jesus is the guarantee that your body is not a temporary shell to be discarded but a vessel being prepared for eternal glorification. This means that how you treat your body, what you feed it, what you expose it to, how you rest it, how you discipline it, is not a secondary spiritual concern. It is worship. Paul's call to glorify God in your body is not an add-on to the Christian life. It is the Christian life made visible and tangible in the world. The watching world does not see your theology. It sees your body -- where you go, what you choose, how you live.

If your body is the most sacred inner sanctuary of God's dwelling, what does the current condition of your daily habits say about how you regard that sacred space? Write out Romans 12:1 in your own words as a personal prayer of consecration. Offer your body - your schedule, your habits, your physical disciplines, your sexuality - to God as an act of living worship. Return to that prayer each morning this week.

Small Group Study Guide
1 Corinthians 6:11-20
No, Really, Whose Are You? - Part 2

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. Biblical contentment is a settled sufficiency regardless of circumstances, and it is only found in the Creator, not in created things.

2. The question "what or who have you given power in your life?" is not abstract. It shows up in the daily, ordinary habits and patterns we rarely examine.

3. What we give authority to, we will trust, and what we trust, we will give authority to. These two movements are inseparable.

4. The body is not separate from the spiritual life. What we do with our bodies is a direct reflection of whose we are.

5. We were bought at a price. Grace is not cheap. The freedom we have in Christ is freedom in Him, not freedom from Him.

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

1. The sermon defines biblical contentment as "a settled sufficiency regardless of circumstances." How does that definition differ from how contentment is typically understood or pursued in everyday life?

2. The pastor presented a lengthy list of "all things" that, while not inherently sinful, can bring us under their power. Which two or three on that list were most personally convicting to you, and why?

3. The sermon draws a connection between consumerism, information addiction, social media curation, and sexual immorality by placing them all under the same question: what or who has power in your life? Does that connection feel fair to you? How does recognizing that connection change how you think about seemingly minor habits?

4. The sermon raises the concern of substituting AI for biblical counsel, Christian community, and spiritual formation. What do you think makes that substitution particularly dangerous compared to other forms of unhealthy dependence?

5. The Corinthians argued that "all things are lawful" to justify returning to sexual immorality. In what ways do you see similar reasoning used today, either in culture broadly or within the church?

6. The sermon states that sex outside of marriage can be satisfying and even enjoyable, but it cannot be enriching, because sex is only spiritually enriching when one is giving rather than taking within a covenantal marriage. How does that distinction between satisfaction and enrichment reframe the conversation about sexual ethics?

7. Paul's prohibition of sexual immorality is described not simply as a matter of living a moral life, but as a matter of pleasing and honoring Jesus. Why does that distinction matter? How does it change the motivation for pursuing purity?

8. Read Genesis 39:7-21 together. Joseph was offered what appeared to be a career-enhancing opportunity, faced ongoing daily pressure, and ultimately suffered consequences for doing the right thing. What does his example reveal about what it actually costs to flee sexual immorality? What does it reveal about God's faithfulness in the aftermath?

9. The sermon quotes Dietrich Bonhoeffer's distinction between cheap grace and costly grace at length. In your own words, what is the difference? Where do you see cheap grace being preached or assumed in your own life or in the broader church?

10. The pastor states that "walking in sexual immorality of any sort cheapens the grace offered through His death and resurrection." That is a strong claim. Do you agree? Why or why not?

11. 1 Corinthians 6:20 declares that you were bought at a price and calls you to glorify God in both body and spirit. What does it look like practically for a believer to treat their body as belonging to God rather than to themselves?

12. The sermon closes by reminding the group that, like the Corinthians, believers have been washed, sanctified, and justified. How does remembering what has already been done for you in Christ change the way you approach the ongoing battle for purity and contentment?

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

1. Conduct a personal audit of your "all things." Pick one item from the sermon's list that you identified as having unhealthy power in your life. Spend time this week in prayer asking God to reveal how that thing has functioned as a substitute for Him, and take one concrete step to limit or reorder it.

2. Practice a fast from one form of media or technology this week, whether that is social media, news consumption, streaming, or another platform. Use the reclaimed time for prayer, Scripture reading, or a meaningful conversation with another believer.

3. Memorize 1 Corinthians 6:19-20. Recite it each morning this week as a reminder of whose you are before the day's temptations and distractions begin.

4. If you are currently walking in sexual immorality of any kind, take the step this week of speaking with your pastor, a trusted elder, or a mature believer. The sermon extended a direct invitation: "We will walk with you through the challenge of rejecting that lie for the life and promises of Christ in you."

5. Read or reread the full chapter on costly grace in Dietrich Bonhoeffer's "The Cost of Discipleship." Bring one insight from that reading to share with the group at your next meeting.

6. Identify one "exit ramp" God has placed in your life in an area of recurring temptation. Write it down. Share it with one person in the group who will ask you about it next week.

Closing Prayer Points:

- Gratitude for the costly grace purchased at Calvary
- Confession of the specific "all things" that have taken authority they were never meant to have
- Renewed commitment to glorify God in both body and spirit
- Intercession for those in the group and in the broader church who are walking in sexual immorality and need both truth and community to find the way forward

Discussion Questions
1 Corinthians 6:11-20
No, Really, Whose Are You? - Part 2

1. The sermon describes biblical contentment as 'a settled sufficiency regardless of circumstances' -- in what areas of your life do you find it most difficult to rest in that sufficiency, and what does that struggle reveal about what you are truly trusting for security?

2. Paul warns that things which are lawful can still bring us under their power -- which item from the sermon's list of 'all things' most convicted you personally, and what would it look like to surrender that area to Christ's lordship?

3. The sermon draws a sharp distinction between freedom FROM Christ and freedom IN Christ -- how does that distinction challenge the way you think about Christian liberty in your daily decisions?

4. Joseph fled sexual temptation even at great personal cost, losing his position and his freedom -- what does his example reveal about the relationship between obedience to God and our willingness to accept worldly consequences for that obedience?

5. The sermon argues that what we give authority to we will trust, and what we trust we will give authority to -- how does this cycle show up in your relationship with technology, information, or social media, and what practical steps might break it?

6. Bonhoeffer's distinction between cheap grace and costly grace is central to the sermon's conclusion -- in what ways might you or your community be tempted to embrace cheap grace, and how does a right understanding of the cross correct that tendency?

7. The sermon asserts that sex outside of marriage can be satisfying but not enriching because it involves taking rather than giving -- how does this framework reshape the way you understand God's design for intimacy and covenant marriage more broadly?

8. Paul teaches in 1 Corinthians 6 that each believer's body is the dwelling place of the Holy Spirit -- how should the reality of that indwelling change the way you make everyday decisions about what you do with your body, your time, and your attention?

9. The sermon warns that substituting AI for biblical counsel, Christian community, and spiritual formation creates an unhealthy dependence -- where do you see this temptation most acutely in your own life or in the lives of those you disciple?

10. The sermon closes with the reminder that believers were bought at a price and are called to glorify God in both body and spirit -- what would it look like in your specific context this week to live as someone who is fully owned by Christ rather than by the culture around you?

Dinner Conversation Starters
1 Corinthians 6:11-20
No, Really, Whose Are You? - Part 2

1. **What Has My Attention?**

   What is something in my life that is not necessarily sinful, but might be gaining too much power over my time, thoughts, or heart?

2. **Freedom in Christ**

   The sermon talked about wanting freedom “from” Christ versus freedom “in” Christ. What is the difference, and how can our family live more fully in the freedom Jesus gives?

3. **Our Bodies Belong to God**

   1 Corinthians 6:20 says, “You were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit.” What are some practical ways we can honor God with our bodies this week?

4. **Fleeing Temptation Like Joseph**

   Joseph ran from temptation when Potiphar’s wife tried to lead him into sin. What are some “exit ramps” God gives us when we are tempted?

5. **Contentment in the Creator**

   The sermon warned against seeking contentment in created things instead of the Creator. Where do people often look for satisfaction, and how can we remind each other that Jesus is enough?

Family Conversation Guide for Children & Early Teens
1 Corinthians 6:11-20
No, Really, Whose Are You? - Part 2

AGES 5-7: SIMPLIFYING THE MESSAGE APPLICATION POINTS

1. **Practice Saying, "God Made Me, and I Belong to Him"**: Help young children understand that their bodies, words, and choices matter because God made them and loves them. This can apply to how they treat others, how they use their hands, and what they watch or listen to.

   Discussion Questions:
   (a) Who do you belong to first: friends or God?
   (b) What should you do if someone asks you to do something unkind?
   (c) How can you use your words and body to honor God when you play

2. **Learn to Walk Away from Wrong Choices**: Joseph fled from temptation. For this age, "fleeing" can mean walking away, telling a grown-up, or choosing a different activity when something feels wrong.

   Discussion Questions:
   (a) What does it mean to "run away" from a bad choice?
   (b) Who are safe adults you can tell when something feels wrong?
   (c) What could you say to a friend who wants you to disobey?

3. **Use Screens with Wisdom**: Teach that screens are tools, not bosses. Children can begin learning that just because something is fun does not mean it should control them.

   Discussion Questions:
   (a) Can a game or video become too important to us?
   (b) How do we know when something is starting to boss us around?
   (c) What are other good things God gives us to enjoy besides screens?

AGES 8-12: BUILDING UNDERSTANDING APPLICATION POINTS

1. **Ask, "Is This Helping Me Follow Jesus?"**: Paul said, "All things are lawful for me, but not all things are helpful." Kids in this age group can begin evaluating hobbies, friendships, games, videos, and habits by asking whether they help or hinder their walk with God.

   Discussion Questions:
   (a) How can something be allowed but still not be helpful?
   (b) What activity is most likely to take over your time or attitude?
   (c) How can we tell when something good is becoming too powerful in our lives?

2. **Choose Friends Who Help You Honor God**: Social groups become increasingly important at this age. Children need to understand that belonging to Jesus matters more than fitting in with peers.

   Discussion Questions:
   (a) Why is it hard to speak up when a group is doing something wrong?
   (b) What does it look like to honor God with your words in a friend group?
   (c) How could you respond if your friends are gossiping or being cruel?

3. **Guard Your Heart in Digital Spaces**: Children need help recognizing that online spaces shape their thoughts, desires, identity, and emotions. They should learn not to give authority to influencers, algorithms, or strangers.

   Discussion Questions:
   (a) Who are some voices online that influence how you think or act?
   (b) How can we tell whether someone is leading us toward wisdom or foolishness?
   (c) What should we do if a video, channel, or online trend pulls our hearts away from God?

AGES 11-15: DEEPENING THE CONNECTION APPLICATION POINTS

1. **Treat Your Body as Belonging to God**: Preteens and teens need clear, compassionate teaching that their bodies are not meaningless or separate from their spiritual lives. What they do with their bodies matters to God because they belong to Him.

   Discussion Questions:
   (a) Why does our culture often treat the body as if it has no spiritual meaning?
   (b) What does it mean that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit?
   (c) What are wise boundaries for conversations, images, relationships, and dating?

2. **Flee Temptation Before It Grows**: Joseph did not stay and negotiate with temptation; he fled. Teens need practical "exit ramps" before temptation becomes harder to resist.

   Discussion Questions:
   (a) What are situations where it is wiser to leave than to "be strong"?
   (b) What would fleeing temptation look like with your phone, apps, privacy, or relationships?
   (c) Who can you talk to if you feel trapped, ashamed, or tempted?

3. Don't Let Digital Spaces Disciple You: The sermon warned about giving authority to things that shape us. Teens are constantly discipled by feeds, influencers, AI tools, entertainment, outrage, and comparison. They need to ask what is forming their identity.

Discussion Questions:

(a) Where do you usually go first when you feel confused, lonely, or anxious?
(b) What is the danger of trusting digital voices more than God's Word and godly people?
(c) How can technology be useful without becoming our counselor, identity-maker, or authority?

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
1 Corinthians 6:11-20
No, Really, Whose Are You? - Part 2

1. **Don't Confuse Freedom with Self-Rule**

   Bible Reference: 1 Corinthians 6:12; Galatians 5:13; Romans 6:1-2

   Application: Gen Z often hears, "Do whatever makes you happy," "Live your truth," or "No one can tell you who to be." But biblical freedom is not freedom from Jesus; it is freedom in Jesus. If something controls your desires, habits, relationships, or identity, it is not true freedom.

   Scenario: Your friend group says, "It's not hurting anyone," to justify partying, sexual compromise, crude joking, or constant entertainment. Everyone assumes personal choice is the highest authority.

   Discussion: Where do you see people confusing "I'm free to do this" with "This is actually good for my soul and pleasing to God"?

2. **Ask, "Is This Helpful, or Is This Mastering Me?"**

   Bible Reference: 1 Corinthians 6:12; Proverbs 25:28; Ephesians 5:15-16

   Application: Not everything that is technically allowed is spiritually helpful. Music, streaming, gaming, social media, shopping, sports, hobbies, and friendships can become controlling forces. A Christian should regularly ask, "Is this helping me follow Jesus, or is it gaining power over me?"

   Scenario: You planned to pray, read Scripture, or get rest, but you spend hours scrolling, gaming, watching videos, or checking notifications. You feel anxious or irritated when you are away from your phone.

   Discussion: What is one thing in your life that may not be sinful in itself but could be gaining too much authority over your time, attention, or emotions?

3. **Your Body Is Not Separate from Your Faith**

   Bible Reference: 1 Corinthians 6:18-20; Romans 12:1; 1 Thessalonians 4:3-5

   Application: Culture often treats the body as something to use for pleasure, attention, self-expression, or validation. Scripture teaches that your body belongs to

God. What you do sexually, physically, and relationally matters because you were bought by Christ.

Scenario: Someone you are dating says, “If you really love me, you’ll prove it physically.” Or friends treat hookups, sexting, pornography, and sexual joking as normal.

Discussion: How does remembering “my body belongs to Christ” change the way you think about dating, physical boundaries, clothing, sexuality, and online behavior?

4. **Flee Sexual Temptation Instead of Negotiating with It**

Bible Reference: 1 Corinthians 6:18; Genesis 39:7-12; 2 Timothy 2:22

Application: Joseph did not stay and debate temptation; he ran. Gen Z needs practical “exit ramps” from sexual temptation: leaving the room, ending the conversation, blocking the account, turning off the device, confessing to a trusted believer, or refusing private situations that invite compromise.

Scenario: You receive an inappropriate DM, are tempted to view sexual content, or find yourself alone with someone in a situation where boundaries are weakening.

Discussion: What would “fleeing” look like in your digital habits, dating boundaries, private conversations, or entertainment choices?

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.