

LIFE GROUP GUIDE - Week Starting Sunday 24th March

1 Corinthians 6:12-20

This Week's BIG IDEA

Focussing on God

The foundation of having authentic discussions about sexuality and sexual sin is to remember the grace of God. We are all totally dependent on grace and should look to always apply grace to one another, especially when we are being open and honest about present temptation and past sin. Read Eph 2:1-10 and spend some time thanking God for his grace. You might want to use one of the following songs to help you focus on God's grace:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XjWvbV6ohVc>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tYT6OkaSrZQ>

Getting into Scripture

Read together 1 Corinthians 6:12-20

- Looking at verse 12 how have the Corinthians mis-understood their freedom in Christ?
- How might we fall into a similar error?
- Paul gives three reasons why the Corinthians should avoid sexual immorality based on each member of the Trinity – Father, Son and Holy Spirit. What are these reasons?
- What is the foundation of Paul's one flesh argument?
- Why is this still applicable whatever culture we find ourselves in?
- What does it mean for us to "Flee" sexual immorality in our lives?
- How does community help us flee?

Time to Pray

As well as the grace of God it is so much easier to be honest with one another in a culture of one anothering. Spend some time prayerfully reading some of the one-anothering verses over each other. If you feel you have the level of relationships it would be good to pray for one another for forgiveness if there are past sins in the area of sexual temptation that have not been dealt with. It may well be that you want to do this in smaller groups and that splitting into same sex groups makes this more accessible for people.

The "One Another" Passages

The phrase "one another" is derived from the Greek word *allelon* which means "one another, each other; mutually, reciprocally." It occurs 100 times in the New Testament. Approximately 59 of those occurrences are specific commands teaching us how (and how not) to relate to one another. Obedience to those commands is imperative. It forms the basis for all true Christian community, and has a direct impact on our witness to the world (John 13:35). In addition to *allelon*, the Bible uses other words and phrases to instruct us how to relate to others. With that in mind, the following list is not exhaustive, and primarily focuses on the use of *allelon*.

POSITIVE COMMANDS

Love one another (John 13:34 - This command occurs at least 16 times)
Be devoted to one another (Romans 12:10)
Honour one another **above yourselves** (Romans 12:10)
Live in harmony with one another (Romans 12:16)
Build up one another (Romans 14:19; 1 Thessalonians 5:11)
Be likeminded towards one another (Romans 15:5)
Accept one another (Romans 15:7)
Admonish one another (Romans 15:14; Colossians 3:16) **Greet** one another (Romans 16:16)
Care for one another (1 Corinthians 12:25)
Serve one another (Galatians 5:13)
Bear one another's **burdens** (Galatians 6:2)
Forgive one another (Ephesians 4:2, 32; Colossians 3:13)
Be patient with one another (Ephesians 4:2; Colossians 3:13)
Speak the truth in love (Ephesians 4:15, 25)
Be kind and compassionate to one another (Ephesians 4:32)
Speak to one another **with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs** (Ephesians 5:19)
Submit to one another (Ephesians 5:21, 1 Peter 5:5)
Consider others **better than yourselves** (Philippians 2:3)
Look to the interests of one another (Philippians 2:4)
Bear with one another (Colossians 3:13)
Teach one another (Colossians 3:16)
Comfort one another (1 Thessalonians 4:18)
Encourage one another (1 Thessalonians 5:11)
Exhort one another (Hebrews 3:13)
Stir up [provoke, stimulate] one another **to love and good works** (Hebrews 10:24)
Show hospitality to one another (1 Peter 4:9)
Employ the gifts that God has given us for the benefit of one another (1 Peter 4:10)
Clothe yourselves with humility towards one another (1 Peter 5:5)
Pray for one another (James 5:16)
Confess your faults to one another (James 5:16)

NEGATIVE COMMANDS (how *not* to treat one another)

Do not lie to one another (Colossians 3:9) **Stop passing judgment** on one another (Romans 14:13) **If you keep on biting and devouring** each other...**you'll be destroyed** by each other (Galatians 5:15)
Let us **not become conceited, provoking and envying** each other (Galatians 5:26) **Do not slander** one another (James 4:11) **Don't grumble against** each other (James 5:9)

We do all this because we are in a real sense “**members of one another**” (Romans 12:5; Ephesians 4:25).