

the first letter to the CORINTHIANS

The Gospel shaped community

What is the series about?

We'll be working our way through the 1st Letter that the Apostle Paul wrote to the church in Corinth. This series will cover what a Gospel shaped community looks like in many areas of life including relationships, sex, food, the gathered church, and the resurrection.

Listen to the audio

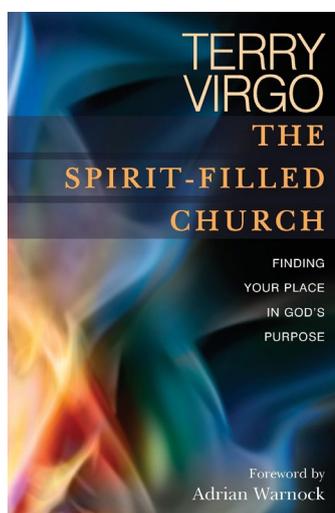
On the King's Norwich app or at: kingsnorwich.com/1corinthians

Check out the blog

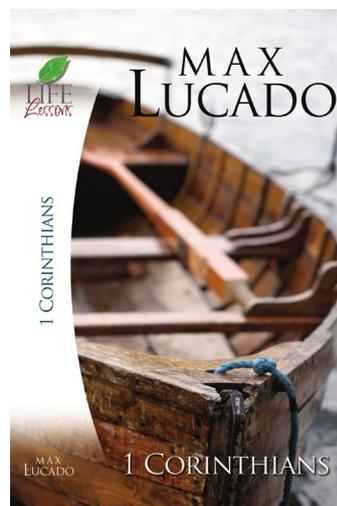
kingsnorwich.com/blog

Recommended Reading

The Spirit Filled Church
Terry Virgo



Life Lessons: 1 Corinthians
Max Lucado



the first letter to the

CORINTHIANS

Title: Sex, Marriage & Personal Fulfilment

Speaker: Goff Hope (City Centre & City West) Bible Ref: 1Cor 6:13 – 7:7 & 7:26-31

Overview

Corinth was a cosmopolitan city, challenging for people starting to follow Jesus.

Sex: 2 common views: a) *'Food for the stomach & the stomach for food'*. Sex is great, it's just a natural appetite like eating (Greek dualism, what really matters is spirit) No says Paul. b) *'It's good for a man not to have sex with a woman'*, Sex is grubby, it's more spiritual to avoid it (Greek ascetics). No says Paul. It's very special, significant. Two become one etc

Marriage: It's about giving to the other, not about how it is for me. That's biblical love, agape. Sexual intimacy in marriage is good, your bodies belong to the other. Don't be self-seeking.

Personal Fulfilment: never to be found in sex or marriage, but in the divine romance, Jesus' pursuing, astonishing love for you. And he will return, the days are short. Get perspective!

Questions to help your group understand the truth preached

On Sundays we hear God's word preached and as we listen well we trust that God is changing us in the moment. Use these questions to further explore the truth that was taught.

1. Why does Paul say those who marry will face many troubles v28? Don't forget v26
2. What impact would ch7v4 have had particularly on men in 1st century Corinth?
3. Goff referred to the woman at the well, John ch4; Why did Jesus tell her how many husbands she'd had when she asked for living water? What point was he making?

Questions to help your group apply the truth preached

When applied, God's Word will enable us to love God and to love others. These questions will help your group apply the truth understood in a way that leads to transformed lives.

4. Why do we stress that for the Christian there is no such thing as casual sex?
5. For those married: What are the most common 'triggers' that cause barriers in your relationships? What might 'radical self-donation' look like at such moments?
6. If Personal Fulfilment is found in the 'divine romance', experiencing Christ's love for us, how is that discovered and how can it be enjoyed on a daily basis?

Questions to help your group dig deeper

Having understood the truth preached, and explored how it can be applied to your lives why not dig a little deeper and ask your group the following questions:

7. How does our future hope affect our approach to relationships? See ch6:14; ch7:29
8. How might it affect decisions you are currently making if you knew Jesus was returning tomorrow?!
9. Throughout Church History Christians have more often than not faced uncertain times or even persecution. How might this have affected Paul's words in ch7vs26-28?