

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

These questions are designed to help you talk about God's word and Pastor Brian's message with friends and family. You of course can use your own questions, but we'd like to give you this tool to encourage Biblical fellowship and discipleship in your circle of relationships. ***Enjoy discovering more about Him!***

"SEX AND SANDWICHES" | 1 CORINTHIANS 6: 12-20 | PASTOR BRIAN BELL

WARM-UP QUESTION:

What are the biggest sources of sexual temptation in our culture today?

"Gray Areas" (1 Cor 6: 12)

There was a saying "All things are lawful for me" but Paul challenges it by adding "not all things are helpful". **How does approaching actions that are gray with the question "will it help my relationship with Jesus and the church" help a believer?**

"Sex and Sandwiches... Not the Same!" (1 Cor 6: 13-14)

Paul challenges the Corinthian idea that sexual desire was like food appetites, and both should be satisfied. Paul presents the idea the body is meant for the Lord. **How would treating our bodies as meant for the Lord look like today in our culture?**

"Two Become One" (1 Cor 6: 15-17)

Sex was designed not just to create babies and to give pleasure, but to also unify people in a special way. **How does having this higher, special view of sex impact a believer's approach to it?**

"You Are Not Your Own" (1 Cor 6: 18-20)

Because Jesus died to redeem people, including their bodies, then they should glorify God with how they use their body. **What are ways you can better glorify God with your body?**

REFLECTION QUESTION:

The world has a low view of the body and sex, seeing it as something either dirty or temporary. But God redeems all of us, including our bodies and wants people to use their bodies in a way that pleases Him. **What are ways you are not glorifying God with what you consume or do with your body? How can you "flee sexual immorality" in practical ways? Pray and ask God to give you the wisdom on how to create a lifestyle that uses your body to glorify Him.**

Sex and Sandwiches

I. Announce:

- A. Welcome to those **Online** and in our **Fellowship Hall**.
- B. **Slide1 Foster a Hope Community**: Just a reminder that Fostering a Hope Community will **not** have a meeting in **December** and will resume in **Jan.17**. *Please feel free to drop your kids off at Calvary Kids while you join us for a discussion about **Meeting Needs**, and spending time supporting and praying for one another.*
- C. **Slide2 At Risk Meeting**: We will **not** be having a meeting in **December**, but we can't wait to meet together again on **Sunday, Jan. 21st, from 3-5 pm**. We will be *talking about* our **Justice Matters Sunday** again as well as *praying for and over* the event.
- D. **Slide3 Christmas Eve Services**: We want to invite you all to our Christmas Eve services at **9 & 11am, 5 & 7:00pm**. **At our evening services, we will have a few special surprises!** **Both morning and evening** will be family services, where we will have **candle lighting** and *the same Christmas message*. Please join us with your family and friends for a special service as we celebrate **God with Us**.
- E. **Slide4 Update**: Fall Food Drive: **70 lbs** of food. **Ukrainian dolls: \$6000** sold. **CFLC Toys: 525 cards**/foster children xmas gifts. Tacos for toys: on top of what was donated for foster children toys **\$2,075**. Rebirth Homes: over **\$1300** was donated *for Christmas gifts* for the girls at risk who live at Rebirth Homes.
- F. **Slide5 Prayer**: *Lord*, you call us to **do things** because **you love us**, and you call us to **NOT do things** because **you love us**.

II. Slide6a Intro: Sex and Sandwiches

- A. All the way through this message, please understand **the answer** is not going to be *stop your immorality, though you should*. Or *stop looking at pornography, though you should*. The answer isn't going to be *try harder, though you should*. **No**, the answer is going to be **so powerful**, something that's **far beyond** your strength or ability. That should **blow your mind**, **if** you'll allow yourself to *hear it fresh for the first time*.

- B. **Slide6b** To grab **the Big Idea**, let's start with **the end**, *so glorify God in your body*.
- In this text, Paul talks about **food** and **sex**. He argues that our bodies belong to the Lord, **so using them for sexual immorality violates our Owner**. So the Big Idea is centered around, **using our bodies to glorify our owner**. [redemption, Lordship of Christ, the Temple of the HS, & the Glory of God]
- C. **I realize** none of us have gone to a Temple to engage in *socially acceptable but sexually impure* activities this week. **But the Temples** of our world today are **shopping malls** and **search engines** with temptations being the same, in our very *sensual, hedonistic culture*.
- Paul now challenges the Corinthian Christians in their **casual attitude** toward *sexual immorality*. **Then**, he makes a case for **sexual purity**.

III. **Slide7 GRAY AREAS (12) READ all**

- A. (12) **Slogans** say a lot about a cultures worldview. Just Do It/Nike. Betcha Can't Eat Just One/Lay's. Have It Your Way/Burger King. American Runs on...Dunkin. Red Bull Gives You...Wings. & apropos for todays teaching, *What happens in Vegas?*
- B. **Slide8a** The **Corinthians** had a couple **popular slogans** in their day that summed up their worldview: *"All things are lawful for me"* (2x's, vs.12), **and** *"Food for the stomach & the stomach for food"* (vs.13).
- Paul adds 1 more slogan in 1 Cor.10:23, *"All things are lawful," but not all things build up/edify.*
- C. **Slide8b 3 questions** for the *gray* areas in life:
- If I **do this, drink this, smoke this**; if I **go do this activity**; if I **go visit** this person; or dwell on these **thoughts ... Will it help me?** (in my walk w/Christ)
 - Will I be dominated by its power?** (become **addicted** to it, become in **bondage** to it, become a **slave** to it?)
 - Will it edify/build up** the body of Christ, CM, or those who are watchin on?
- D. **All things are lawful for me** - true or false? (Correct - both!)
- F**: Just because something is **legal** doesn't make it **moral**.

2. T: Yes, we are *free in Christ*, He died to *set us free*. Yet, Christian liberty is not license. *Christian liberty doesn't mean I'm free to do what I please, but I've been free to do what pleases Christ.* NLT, *and even though I am allowed to do anything, I must not become a slave to anything.*

a) I think **the best advice** on this topic came out of the **4th century**, from a man *who knew sexual immorality before his conversion*, the man was **St. Augustine**, Bishop of Hippo N. Africa, who stands preeminent among *theologians* of all time. **Slide8c** He wrote, *Love and do as you please!* (meaning, one who truly Agapes, cannot ever do wrong) [*against God or man*]

IV. Slide9a **SEX AND SANDWICHES ... NOT THE SAME! (13,14)**

- A. They reasoned that: “*food*” was both pleasurable and necessary. When their **stomachs** signaled hunger, food was taken to **satisfy** them. **So too**, they argued, “*sex*” was pleasurable and necessary. When their **bodies** signaled sexual desire, they needed to be **satisfied**.
- B. Paul draws the **distinct contrast** between the stomach and the body.
- Slide9b** (NLT) *Yes, Food was made for the stomach, and the stomach for food, but you can't say that our bodies were made for sexual immorality.*
- C. Some say, “*God only cares about your spirit, so does it really matter what happens to the body?*” This answers that. **The body** is not finished when it is put in the **coffin**. (think *res & afterlife* w/our body)
- D. Both the Romans & the Greeks saw the **body** as simply *a tomb or prison of the soul*. What happens with that mind set? 1 of 2 things ...
- Ascetics** = starve the body thru harsh-discipline.
 - Hedonists** = feed the body all it wants, *since soul matters & body doesn't*.
- E. (14) Here he introduces us to *resurrection* truth. **We are not** the moral police. **We are not** called to usher in a world that **behaves**, or follow a list of rules. **Slide9c** No, we are here to *invite people on a whole new path!*

1. **Slide10a** Jesus offers a new solution for our brokenness ... and that way is resurrection. The resurrection of the body is the promise Jesus made before He left. It's the promise of the Ascension. It's the promise of when Jesus returns and gives us a new resurrected body, then we will finally makes sense of **who we are**.
- F. Not only do you have **intrinsic purpose and value**, *your body is not disposable*, it's not a *one time use* item.
1. Your body will be resurrected by Jesus. He has big plans for your body, *not just for later*, but for **today**. Which in the words of *Windell Berry* (poet, farmer, writer, activist, academic) said, *Practice Resurrection*. **Slide10b**
 2. Eugene Peterson - *When we practice resurrection, we continuously enter into what is more than we are. When we practice resurrection, we keep company with Jesus, alive and present, who knows where we are going better than we do. Which is always "from glory unto glory."*
 3. It's *an existential connection* w/the divine, meant to satisfy us in this life.

V. Slide11a **2 BECOME 1 (15-17)**

- A. Our bodies are to be: *Joined to Him. A Temple for Him. Redeemed by Him. A Reflection of Him.* (now Paul starts giving *the answer*. not try harder ...)
1. The **Greeks** separated out the spiritual life and the body. Jesus does the opposite and brings them both together.
 2. Where **culture** separated the person from the body, **Jesus** brings them together in a **unified whole**.
- B. (16) **Prostitutes** - for the Corinthians it most likely was tied to *the religious temple prostitutes*, to the cult goddess **Aphrodite**.
1. Our identification w/Christ is so complete that *when a believer committed fornication w/a prostitute* (or girlfriend/boyfriend), he involved **Christ** in the act. **Slide11b** - i.e. What I do with my body *implicates* the Lord. [*implicate* = show someone to be *involved in* a crime] We're **implicating** Jesus into our sin!

C. **Joined to the Lord/prostitute - is a complete change!** John 3:3 *Jesus answered him (Nic), “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is **born again** (born from above) he cannot see the kingdom of God.”* 4 *Nicodemus said to him, “**How** can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born?”* 5 *Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. 6 That which is **born of the flesh is flesh**, and that which is **born of the Spirit is spirit**. 7 Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘**You must be born again**/born from above.’”*

1. **Jesus went to the heart of it with Nicodemus.** You must be completely changed. Born a 2nd time. Born somebody new. Coming to Jesus is never being the same again. We are absolutely brand new.

D. **Slide11c Sex does 3 things: Sex Creates. Sex Delights. Sex Unifies.** And here Paul is talking about this 3rd one. It’s not just *the physically bringing together of 2 bodies*. It’s a **union** that brings together *something brand new*.

1. I hope you can hear this like it was the first time. Our bodies are to be full of the *genuine manifest presence* of God.
2. And we’re **not** supposed to **just** be **joined to Him we are a temple for Him**.

VI. **Slide12a YOU ARE NOT YOUR OWN (18-20)**

A. (18) **Flee sexual immorality** - it’s a *continual and a habitual fleeing*.

1. Whether from *premarital, extramarital, homosexual, bisexual, incestuous*.
2. Reminds us of **Joseph fleeing** Potiphar's wife.
3. **Brian How do I do this? Make it a chosen fast** before the Lord.
4. **Slide12b** When it comes to **the devil, resist him and ... he'll flee from you**.
When it comes to **temptations** of the flesh, **you do the fleeing**.

B. **Sexual sins are against 3? Christ** who *purchased* our bodies. **The HS** who *indwells* our bodies. **Ourselves** we *sin against our own body* 18b).

- C. There is a **dangerous, or beautiful, soul-connection** that takes place during sexual relations. **That outside** its proper context (marriage between husband/wife) *it damages, it wounds, and it shames the soul.*
- D. **Slide12c** (19) **You are not your own** – Spurgeon said, *It is a great pleasure not to be one's own. Does any man think it would be a pleasure to be his own? Let me assure him that there is no ruler so tyrannical as self. He that is his own master has a fool and a tyrant to be his lord.*
1. Remember, **whatever controls you, whatever drives you** to keep living each day, **masters you**. [It is not too late to *change Masters*]
 2. **Under New Management** should be a sign we can hang over our lives.
- E. **Slide12d** (19) **Sex is a good thing, a great thing, a God given thing. But Everything God given is God governed.**
1. **Warning, keep out!** I knew it was a warning sign in *Hebrew*, but I didn't know what from. So me and my friend Eric climbed over the barbwire fence at the Eastern side of Galilee (Golan Heights/Gedara). **Our bus driver & guide came running over, yelling and screaming at us to get out.** It said **Slide12e "Danger Mines"**. [were they being mean to me, or protecting me?]
- F. **Your body is a temple** - in contrast to Temple of Aphrodite. **We have a Guest living in our hearts.** I hope *he feels at home* living inside of us.
- G. (20) **How do we glorify God in our bodies?** **By the way we dress our bodies, the things we feed our bodies, places we take our bodies, the deeds we do in our bodies.**
1. It is dangerous to use your bodies for sin ... ask **Samson**.
 2. God did forgive Samson, and gave him back his strength ... **but not his sight, or his ministry.**
 3. **He died in Victory, but lived in moral and spiritual defeat.** He destroyed Gods enemies, **but** he didn't live **like God's friend**.
- H. **Positive Side of Sexual Unity:**
1. Uses it within marriage to **weld** to people together. (unity, become 1)

2. Marriage is *a living parable, a concrete symbol*, that **models for the world the mystical union of Christ and His people.**

3. According to God's original design, **marriages have grand, even cosmic meaning.** And this meaning remains, *regardless of how pathetically short we fall of that grand design.*

I. **Analogy** between the bonding capacity of the body and adhesive tape.

1. **Adhesive tape is not made for repetitive use.** The **strongest bond** adhesive tape is capable of making is formed with the 1st surface to which it is applied.

2. You can remove the tape and reapply it to **other surfaces** several times, and it will still adhere. **However**, with every application, *some of the adhesiveness has been compromised.*

3. If you continue the practice long enough, there will not be enough **adhesiveness** left to make the tape stick to any surface.

J. **Wrap Up:**

K. **You've been bought with a price** – this is the language of the Marketplace, *buying and selling slaves.* It's referring to **redemption**, being *purchased back.*

1. **We are not our own, but listen we get to choose our Master! Choose this day, whom you will serve.** Don't refuse the ownership of Jesus.

2. This morning, do you want to be *redeemed, bought back, born again?* It's a big big decision, not to be taken lightly. **But I invite** you to walk down **a whole new path** with **Jesus.**

L. Keywords: redemption, resurrection, temple.