

# 1 Corinthians

## 6:1–20

### Introduce

How do the students around you view sex? How do students view their bodies in reference to their sexual desires? Tonight we are going to look at a proper perspective of our bodies and sex in light of our position in Christ.

### Investigate

#### *Background*

Paul continues his discussion about specific issues plaguing the Corinthian church. He addresses two more issues in this chapter, both of which were reflecting badly on the church to the rest of the Corinthian community—lawsuits among believers and sexual immorality in the church.

#### *Explore the Passage*

**6:1-8** *[You may want to summarize this section and move to the last two paragraphs for the sake of time.]*

- What does it seem was happening in the Corinthian church that caused Paul to address this issue? How does this relate to the issue of the sexually immoral man addressed in the previous paragraph? *[Both involve the way the church is perceived by outsiders and how it reflects on God.]*
- What are some of the reasons Paul gives for handling grievances within the church?
- How should these grievances be handled according to Paul?
- How should this apply to Christians today? What are some differences between the Corinthian believing community and the believing community today that might necessitate flexibility in application? *[The Corinthian church was a unified body while believers in Ann Arbor are a very fragmented and separated body with no unified leadership or authority structure.]*

#### **6:9-11**

- What is contrast between the unrighteous and the Corinthian believers? What does this contrast tell us about Paul's purpose in giving this warning? *[Paul is making the point that more is expected of the church because of who they are in Christ. They allow sin to be tolerated in the body and bring a bad name upon the church and God Himself.]*
- How is this warning connected with the previous section? *[The man who was defrauding his brother is acting like an unbeliever and is in danger of being shut out of the kingdom of God.]*

#### **6:12-20**

Paul lays out three statements that must have been made by some in the Corinthian church that reveal their mindset: 1. "All things are lawful for me" (used twice) 2. "Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food."

- How do these statements relate to Paul's discussion about sexual immorality? *[These statements were likely used to justify a sexually immoral lifestyle. Their reasoning went like this, "Since everything is permitted, and since food is for the stomach and the stomach for food (after all, God will destroy them both in the end), and since all bodily appetites are pretty much alike, that means that the body is for sex and sex for the body—because God will destroy them both in the end as well." (Gordon Fee)]*

- What arguments are given by Paul to address this false mindset? [*Spend time discussing each aspect of Paul's argument.*]
  - The body is meant for the Lord
  - Our bodies will be raised up by God as Christ's body was raised up
  - Our bodies are united with Christ, and so should not be joined to a prostitute
  - Sexual intercourse unites the participants as one flesh (real consequence)
  - We are joined with the Lord in spirit
  - Sexual immorality is a sin committed against our own body
  - Our bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit
  - We do not belong to ourselves but were bought with a price
- What is the correct Christian view of the body?
- How does a proper view of the relationship between our body and the Lord help us refrain from sexual immorality?

*Discover the Big Idea*

- How do you see the arrogance Paul talked about at the end of chapter 4 through the issues Paul addresses here? What is the big problem in this church?

Summary: The Corinthian believers were sure of the superiority of their wisdom, yet continued to live contrary to their position in Christ and to tolerate improper behavior, bringing shame on them before the Corinthian community.

## **Respond**

- How have you justified sexual immorality in your life in the past? What false views were you operating under?
- How might the reality Christ's sacrificial purchase, the reality of our sanctification, the certainty of our glorification motivate you to remain pure?
- What do you need to change in your life to glorify God with your body more fully? How can you flee from the sexual immorality that you are currently dealing with?