**The Body Is For the Lord**

Home Group Leaders: Due to the nature of this conversation on sexuality, you might consider breaking your small group into guys and gals for at least part of your time if you think that might allow for more free and vulnerable sharing on this topic.

**The Word**

Read together 1 Corinthians 6:12-20

**The Big Idea**

Paul presents a very high view of our bodies as extensions of Christ’s own body and as temples in which his Spirit dwells. Precisely because of that high view, he calls us to flee every form of sexual immorality as a way to glorify God in our bodies.

**Questions for Discussion**

1. Last week we were given the assignment of spending time daily offering the parts of our bodies to God as instruments of righteousness. Were you able to engage that practice, and if so, what was that experience like for you? What was the fruit of that, if any?

2. Paul outlines some profound realities about our bodies in this passage: They are for the Lord Jesus, they are members of Christ himself, they are temples of the Holy Spirit, and they are not our own because they were bought at a price. What reality struck you most or shed new light on this subject for you?

3. Some comments were made on Sunday about how we should approach our tv/movie/streaming habits. What’s your perspective on that? What would you add to or change from what was said on Sunday?

4. On Sunday it was argued that prayer and willpower alone (while both important) don’t represent a serious approach to pursuing sexual purity, and we need a more comprehensive embodied approach to sexual purity that involves systems/structures of protection and relationships of accountability and support. As you think about your own life in this area, are there any practical steps you would like to take in the coming weeks?

**Sermon Outline**

I. Introduction

A. Sex is God’s good gift. It’s not bad, sinful, dirty, or part of the fall, but rather part of his creation design intended for intimacy, affection, connection, and procreation.

B. Sex is a sacred thing. It is not casual or recreational or something to engage flippantly. Sexual is a coming together of not just bodies but persons.

C. God designed one context for sex: a lifelong covenant between man and woman. This sacred experience needs the safety of lifelong commitment.

D. All other forms of sexual behavior are “sexual immorality” (=Gk: porneia) - v. 13

II. Context of This Passage

A. Corinthian culture was very sexualized and licentious, and that culture had infiltrated the Corinthian church. In the name of spiritual freedom they were engaging in sexual immorality

B. This is very similar to our sexualized culture today.

C. This sexualized culture was seen in the slogans of the Corinthian church (v. 12-13)

1. “Everything is permissible.” Paul: but not everything is beneficial

2. “Everything is permissible.” Paul: but be careful that you don’t become enslaved to the things you pursue

3. “Food for stomach, and the stomach for food, and God will destroy both.” They had a low view of the body: since it’s temporal and will be destroyed, we can do whatever we want with our bodies. Paul: Remember, God will raise up your bodies (v. 14) because he cares about the body.

III. The Heart of the Passage

A. Paul gives us a radically new way of thinking about our bodies

1. The body is for the Lord and the Lord for the body (v. 13)

- Your body belongs to the Lord Jesus (not just your heart), and Jesus cares about what you do with your body.

2. Your bodies are members of Christ himself (v. 15)

- You are part of the body of Christ. You are joined to him spiritually (v. 17) and he considers your body as an actual extension of his own body!

See also Eph 5:28-29

- When you sleep with a prostitute, it’s as though Jesus himself is sleeping with a prostitute (because you are an extension of him)

3. Your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit (v. 19)

- In the OT, the Temple was the most sacred site on earth, where God’s shekinah glory dwelt. Paul is saying that our bodies are now that sacred space! With his Holy Spirit dwelling within them!

4. You are not your own, you were bought at a price (v. 19-20)

- Jesus offered his own body as a sacrifice for you to purchase you for God

- So you are triply God’s

- God the Father created your body

- Jesus purchased your body at Calvary

- The Spirit indwells your body

- You are not your own! (such a countercultural statement)

B. Paul gives us a radically new way of acting in our bodies

1. Flee from sexual immorality (v. 18)

- Run away in haste. Don’t dabble or flirt with it.

2. Glorify God with your bodies (v. 20)

- Always be asking, “How can I use this body in ways that show God how glorious I think he is? In ways that show him I treasure him more than anything else?”

3. What if these two commands (flee and glorify) were the litmus test of our sexual behavior?

Example: What kinds of shows do you allow yourself to watch?

- Is your question, “how far is too far?” or “Am I being faithful to fleeing sexual immorality and glorifying God in my body?”

- “Sex is not a spectator’s sport” – John Piper

- Consider Titus 2:11-14

IV. Conclusion: What are concrete “embodied” steps you can take to pursue sexual purity?

A. Prayer and willpower alone won’t cut it

B. Create embodied structures of protection and safety

- get phone/laptop out of bedroom, accountability software, avoid certain places, etc.

C. Pursue relationships with trusted friends for accountability and support

- For support, feel free to contact Bob Sklar who leads groups of men struggling with sexual challenges/addictions: (714) 200-4214