

Together: Study of 1 Corinthians
“Why Sexual Purity is a Big Deal”
1 Corinthians 6:12-20
March 18, 2018 / Pastor Shawn

THE LIE WE BELIEVE

I can do whatever I want with my body.

¹² “I have the right to do anything” you say — but not everything is beneficial. “I have the right to anything” — but I will not be mastered by anything. 1 Corinthians 6:12

THE TRUTH WE NEED

My body belongs to God.

¹³ “Food for the stomach and stomach for food”—but God will destroy them both. The body is not meant for sexual immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. ¹⁴ By his power God raised the Lord from the dead, and he will raise us also. 1 Corinthians 6:13-14

¹⁹ Do you not know that your bodies are a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; ²⁰ you were bought at a price. 1 Corinthians 6:19-20a

WHY WE NEED TO REMAIN PURE

1. Sex is sticky.

¹⁵ Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ himself? Shall I then take the members of Christ and unite them with a prostitute? Never! ¹⁶ Do you not know that he who unites himself with a prostitute is one with her in body? For it is said, “The two will become one flesh.” ¹⁷ But he who unites himself with the Lord is one with him in spirit. 1 Corinthians 6:15-17

2. Sexual Sin is destructive

¹⁸ Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a man commits are outside the body, but whoever sins sexually, sins against their own body. 1 Corinthians 6:18

3. Sexual Purity is an Act of worship.

²⁰ . . . Therefore honor God with your bodies. 1 Corinthians 6:20b

◆ Doxazō (do-ksä'-zō): to honor, glory; to praise; to cause dignity and worth of someone to become known

¹ Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God — this is your spiritual act of worship. ² Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. . . . Romans 12:1-2a

Discussion Questions

1. What was your “A-Ha” from Sunday’s message? Why did this stand out to you?
2. What are some of the sexual lies you, your kids, your grandkids, are exposed to? (What are some lies you believed as a teen or young adult?)
3. “Everything is permissible for me” (6:12) was probably a quote from some Corinthians who felt that their bodies had nothing to do with their spiritual lives. What arguments does Paul use to refute this belief?
4. Paul calls the body “a temple of the Holy Spirit” (6:18-20). How does the biblical view of the body presented here contrast with the current world view?
5. How can understanding your body as a temple of the Holy Spirit (6:19; 3:16) lead you to a healthy balance of bodily control and bodily celebration?
6. What can you do today to better worship God with purity?
7. Maybe you don’t struggle with sexual purity, think of some pleasure you are fond of. Evaluate it according to Paul’s tests in 6:12-13, 19-20. Ask yourself: Is it beneficial? Is it threatening to control you? Does it glorify God, who has bought you at a price and made your body His temple?