

PURELATIONSHIPS: Sexual Purity God's Way - Part 1
Sermon #1, 1 Corinthians 6:12-20

Main Point: You have been bought at a high price, so honor the Lord through sexual purity.

Note to the Leader: If you are like many groups, you may find it difficult during your regular group meetings to get your members to participate in the discussion. How much more may that be true when discussing the issue of sexuality?! In most people's minds, sex is not something you talk about in public. So, as the Leader, you will need to do a few things: 1. Provide an atmosphere of openness, authenticity, and grace. If people are going to talk about this subject they need to be reassured they will not be judged. 2. Break the ice! There will most likely be a lot of tension in the room, so any appropriate way you can use to get people to loosen up will be helpful. 3. Extend Christ's forgiveness. All of us fall short of God's sexual standards and therefore everyone needs to be reminded of God's forgiveness and renewal through His Son Jesus Christ. 4. It would be wise to do 'breakout groups' during the prayer time; men with men, women with women. This will allow for greater freedom for group members to open up with each other for prayer and accountability. God's blessings upon you as you lead!

Getting to Know You

1. On a scale of 1 to 10 (1 being 'Unmentionable!' and 10 being 'Dinner Conversation'), rate how comfortable your family was with talking about sexuality.
2. Where did you learn most of your information about sex and relationships? Some ideas: Television/Movies, Internet, Locker Room, Books, Parents, Church, Trial and Error, Friends, etc.

Getting Into the Book

Read 1 Corinthians 6:12-20

Background: The book of 1 Corinthians was written to Christians in a town named Corinth (see 1:1-2). Corinth had a reputation for being a very immoral city, especially sexually. Many Corinthian Christians came out of that lifestyle (6:9-11) and the church was still very much influenced by the culture (5:5:1-2). This portion of the Apostle Paul's letter was written to instruct them on why they should honor God with their bodies.

1. What meaning is encompassed in the term 'sexual immorality'? (Greek: *porneia*) (Answer: pre-marital sex (fornication); extra-marital sex (adultery); homosexuality; prostitution; all sexual activity outside of marriage)
2. What were some of the common justifications for sexual immorality given by the Corinthians? See 6:12, 13. What equivalent justifications are given today? (Possible answers: 'God will forgive me anyway,' 'I can't help myself.')

3. In what ways are Christians 'mastered' by sexual immorality? Why is this not to be the case? 6:12.
4. What theological reasons are given for why Christians should use their bodies to honor the Lord? See 6:14, 15, 17, 19, 20.
5. How do the truths that you are united with Christ in body and spirit, and your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, change the way you think about using your body?
6. What command are we given in 6:18 as to how to overcome sexual immorality? (Note: the word conveys of the meaning 'Keep fleeing') Why is it not wise to reason with or rationalize sexual immorality? What practical measures have you taken to run away from sexual immorality?
7. Use your imaginations and describe the price Jesus paid on the cross for your sins. How does His great sacrifice of love motivate you to glorify God with your body? 6:20

Getting Out There

8. Read 1 Corinthians 6:9-11. What is available through Christ for sexual sinners who repent?
9. During your prayer time (men with men, women with women), share a struggle you have in this area and have your group members pray for you.

Prayer

Ask God to let the truth that our bodies belong to Him sink into our minds and hearts so we will glorify Him more and gratify ourselves less.