

SERMON APPLICATION GUIDE

1 CORINTHIANS: A BEAUTIFUL MESS

1 Corinthians 6:1–11

DISCUSSION 1: SIN IN THE BODY (6:1–8)

1. Why should we take the holiness of believers in the Church seriously? Why is this important for the Church's health and witness?
2. Why did Paul see their actions in 6:1–8 as so damaging to the Church and to Christ's reputation?
3. How do we confront those who profess Christ but choose sin—or live in unrepentant sin—with grace *and* truth? What are some questions you might ask or concerns you might bring up with others who profess the name of Christ but seem to be living in sin?
4. What are ways the Church today might interact with one another that harms our witness before the world?

DISCUSSION 2: DECEIVED (6:9–10)

1. Why should we take seriously this warning or caution of Paul to not be deceived by thinking we can live unrighteously and assume we are followers of Jesus?
2. What are some of the ways a believer and an unbeliever respond differently to their sin (or should)?
3. What are things to build into your life to protect you from being deceived, being caught in sin, or hiding sin? How can others walk with you so you are quick to confess and repent of sin?
4. Read 1 John 1:8-10 and 3:4-10. How do we balance the fact that believers continue to sin but do not “make a practice of sinning”? Why should this not crush believers when they sin but also not take their sin casually?

DISCUSSION 3: SUCH WERE SOME OF YOU (6:11)

1. Why is it important to remember both what we were saved *from* and what/who we were saved *to*?
2. Paul reminds them of their new status—who they now are—in Christ as the motivation for living like Christ rather than the world (6:11; 1:2, 30). Why does remembering what Christ has done for us and who we are in him provide motivation for holiness and fighting sin?
3. What are ways you can keep in your mind the reality that you are not who you used to be, but you are a new person in Jesus? How can you practically apply this when you're tempted to sin in specific ways?