

SERMON APPLICATION GUIDE

1 CORINTHIANS: A BEAUTIFUL MESS

1 Corinthians 6:1–11

DISCUSSION 1: SIN IN THE BODY (6:1–11)

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 is it important to remember both what we were saved *from* and what/who we were saved *to*?
3. 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?

DISCUSSION 2: FREEDOM (6:12)

1. Read 1 Cor. 6:12–13 and 10:23–24. Paul tells them that they might be “free” to do certain things but that it doesn't make it wise or good. What are examples of things Christians might be free to do that would ultimately hurt them or others, or not honor God's name?
2. As we think about our own use of freedoms, how do we factor in what glorifies God (6:20), what won't lead to being ruled or dominated by something (6:12), what is helpful for own growth (6:12; 10:23), what builds up others (10:24), and what is for the good of my neighbor (10:24)? Use examples of how these factors might at times restrict upon certain freedoms.

DISCUSSION 3: SEXUAL IMMORALITY (6:13–20)

1. Reading 6:13 and 6:20, what is the greatest purpose for our bodies? What are ways to live so that our bodies are used for the Lord? What are ways—including but beyond sexual immorality—that we might use our bodies in a way that isn't for the Lord?
2. How might viewing our bodies as for present and eternal good, for the Lord (6:13), and as a temple of the Spirit (6:19) change the way we think about ourselves and our bodies?
3. Read Romans 6:12–19. What are some takeaways from this section about how we can present our bodies to the Lord and as instruments of righteousness, or how we don't present our bodies as instruments of unrighteousness? How would you apply this not only to your body as a whole but to specific things like your thought life or your tongue?
4. When it comes to all forms of sexual immorality, lust, and temptation, what does it look like to *flee* from it? What are ways we can let sin linger, stay around, or not flee from it?
5. How can these tactics help us fight against all forms of sexual sin?
 - Fight with God's armor in the war against sexual sin (Eph. 6:10-20)
 - Look to Christ (Heb. 12:1-3)
 - Exchange lies for truth (Eph. 4:22-24)
 - Expose yourself to the light (1 John 1:5-7)
 - Remember you are not your own but belong to Jesus now (1 Cor. 6:19–20)
 - Know that the Spirit dwells within you and helps you flee temptation (1 Cor. 6:19)