

SERMON APPLICATION GUIDE

1 CORINTHIANS: A BEAUTIFUL MESS

1 Corinthians 7:1–7

DISCUSSION 1: SEXUAL IMMORALITY (6:12–20)

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. 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? 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)

DISCUSSION 2: A GIFT, NOT A GOD

1. What are the dangers of viewing sex as ultimate and then viewing sex too lightly?
2. How does this passage highlight Paul's view of an equality in marriage rather than a form of patriarchy where women exist for men? Why is this important as part of our understanding of a biblical view on marriage and sex?
3. What are ways sex is misused outside of marriage? What are ways sex can be misused within marriage? Are there ways—even in marriage—we can pursue sex selfishly that might erode rather than build oneness and intimacy?
4. What are reasons one spouse might not want sex as much as the other? How can sin, relational barriers, and unresolved conflict lessen a spouse's desire for sex?
5. Are there any ways you pursue sex selfishly, have made it an idol, or have not thought about it biblically? How can others in this group (of the same gender) help you in this area?

DISCUSSION 3: FIVE TRUTHS CONCERNING SEX (7:1-6)

Here are five truths about sex we discussed on Sunday.

- Sex is to be experienced between a husband and a wife (7:2).
- Sex is a gift from God to enjoy (7:2).
- Sex is a mutually unifying expression of oneness (7:3-4)
- Sex is to be a priority (7:5).
- Sex serves as a means of spiritual protection (7:5).

1. What are some reasons God designed sex to be between a husband and wife?

2. How does the fact that God created sex to be enjoyed help us have a positive view of it rather than view it as shameful, help us think rightly about sex?
3. Why does oneness help lead to sex, and how does sex help produce oneness?
4. What might it look like for sex to be a priority in your marriage? How can both spouses talk about this together so they're on the same page when it comes to what this might look like in their own marriage?
5. How does sex within marriage provide spiritual protection (7:5)?
6. Which of the five truths about sex was most helpful and why?