

The Blessed Mess: Paul's First Letter to the Church at Corinth

January 22nd, 2023

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Glorify God with Your Body (1 Corinthians 6:12-20)

1. The Distinctives of Sexual Holiness

2. The Design of Sexual Holiness

3. The Discipline of Sexual Holiness

For Further Thought and Discussion:

Getting Started:

1. What was helpful to you in this week's sermon? What didn't you understand?

Going Deeper

2. In verses 12-13, Paul quotes a number of popular Corinthian slogans. What do these slogans reveal about the Corinthian view of sex? How had these believers been influenced by their culture? How does the Corinthian view of sex mirror our culture's view?
3. Read verses 15-17. How does Paul describe the believer's relationship to Christ? How does he describe the nature of union with a prostitute? How does our relationship with Christ mirror the covenant of marriage (see Genesis 2:24; see also Ephesians 5:31-32)? Why does this – in Paul's mind – make sex with a prostitute unthinkable?
4. In verse 18, Paul says that sexual immorality is unique, as it's a sin "*against one's own body*," What doesn't this mean? What does this mean? In what sense is sexual sin uniquely "*against*" one's own body?

Application:

5. Throughout Scripture, there's an inextricable connection between (1) sex and marriage; (2) marriage and sexual difference (male/female), (3) sexual difference and God's covenant with his people. How does this fill sex with cosmic significance? How does this clarify which sexual behaviors are glorifying to God, and which are not?
6. In this passage, Paul offers three starting points for understanding sexuality; (1) fundamentally, sex is not about gratifying my desires, but serving others (v. 12); (2) my body does not belong to me, but to Jesus (vv. 12, 15-17, 19-20); (3) my body has eternal significance, and is God's sacred dwelling place (vv. 13-14, 18). Which of these starting points for understanding sex stood out to you? Why?
7. Jeff offered a number of insights about how to "*flee sexual immorality*" (v. 18) and "*glorify God with your body*" (v. 20). Which of these stood out to you? Which was most helpful? Why?
8. What's one thing you can do this week to apply this passage?