

# FROM THE BEGINNING: RELATIONSHIPS THAT GIVE LIFE

I Corinthians 6:9-20

Week 1

Read the Scripture passage above and then work through the introduction below to help guide your personal study.

The sermon this weekend focuses on the “power of sex,” and mostly pulls from the Old Testament’s wisdom literature (Proverbs, Song of Solomon, et al.). Pastor J.D. makes the case that we both undervalue and overvalue sex in our culture, but the gospel helps us wield the power of sex in a way that brings joy. Our culture overvalues sex when we prefer physical beauty over things of greater value like friendship, loyalty, and character. Our culture undervalues sex by treating it like an appetite to quench. Sex has the power to connect souls on a deep and intimate level, and therefore should not be casually engaged in nor brushed aside.

In I Corinthians, Paul addresses the power of sex and how it must be engaged in properly. In the right context, the unity that sex can bring is life-giving. Many religions and philosophies throughout time have drawn a stark distinction between body and spirit. Christianity, as you notice here in I Corinthians 6, sees a radical union between the two in each person. In contrast to many of the views in Greek culture at the time, Christianity affirms that our physical existence matters greatly to God. The two affect each other deeply, such that if your soul is sick, your body can suffer the consequences, and vice versa. Christian belief in Resurrection, where both body and spirit are restored eternally, is a revolutionary idea with drastic effects on believer’s ethics. In this discussion, you’ll work out with your small group how this idea informs our views on the power of sex.

Work through these questions below before you come to small group and be ready to interact and share answers.

## Study Questions

1. What from the sermon this weekend helped you think with more Biblical wisdom about the power of sex?
2. Read I Corinthians 6:9-11. Paul here rails against the misuse of power, money, sex and worship. Why do those abuses need to be kept out of God’s kingdom?
3. In verse 11, we see that Christ can make us clean from past sins. Does struggling with these sins mean that we have not been washed by Christ? Explain your answer.

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4. Read verses 12-13. How does Paul combat the notion that sex is an appetite and therefore should be engaged in casually?
  
5. Read verses 14-20. We just celebrated the Resurrection of Jesus this past Sunday. How does the hope of our own Resurrection teach us to overcome temptation in sexual sin?
  
6. Why is sexual sin a particularly powerful form of sin?
  
7. Explain what Paul means when he mentions our “oneness” with Christ and with the Spirit?
  
8. What does it mean to “glorify God in your body?” How can you take some practical steps towards this in the next week?

### **Prayer Guide**

Read 2 Corinthians 5:14-21 and pray:

- Thanking Christ for the New Creation that he has made in us!
- Remembering the reconciliation that he made by his sacrifice.
- Asking for the strength and wisdom to be ambassadors for this reconciliation. Pray for friends by name who need to know that their transgressions can be forgiven in Christ.
- Asking for the Holy Spirit to cleanse us from sin and temptation that remains in our lives.