

09

1 Corinthians 6:12-20



WISDOM IN SEXUALITY



Daily Readings

- 01 1 Corinthians 6:12-14
- 02 1 Corinthians 6:15-20
- 03 Romans 8:5-8
- 04 1 Peter 1:13-21
- 05 Romans 12:1-2
- 06 Colossians 3:1-8
- 07 Galatians 5:13-25



WEEK 9

Wisdom in Sexuality

In this passage, Paul is confronting distorted ideas about sexuality. In verses 12-13a, Paul quotes two slogans, “I have the right to do anything” and “food for the stomach and the stomach for food, and God will destroy them both.” The NIV adds “you say” to confirm these are quotes. However, others believe the whole saying is simply Paul’s wording. Whether they are Corinthian slogans or merely Paul’s own words, he is clearly stating one idea and then adding a balancing truth.

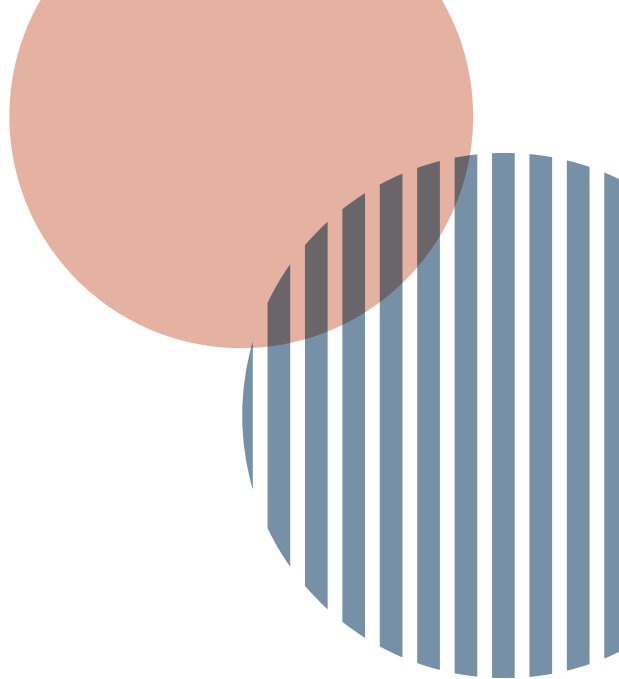
These little proverbs have the ring of wisdom. They acknowledge the freedom we have in Christ and the temporary nature of things like food. However, Paul balances that insight with further spiritual wisdom. Freedom in Christ is not meant to make us slaves to sin. The particular sins Paul is concerned about are sexual immorality and prostitution. He clarifies that the purpose of our freedom is not to indulge ourselves but to glorify God.

1 Corinthians 6:12-20

SEXUAL IMMORALITY

“I have the right to do anything,” you say—but not everything is beneficial. “I have the right to do anything”—but I will not be mastered by anything. ¹³ You say, “Food for the stomach and the stomach for food, and God will destroy them both.” The body, however, is not meant for sexual immorality but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. ¹⁴ By his power God raised the Lord from the dead, and he will raise us also. ¹⁵ Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ himself? Shall I then take the members of Christ and unite them with a prostitute? Never! ¹⁶ Do you not know that he who unites himself with a prostitute is one with her in body? For it is said, “The two will become one flesh.” ¹⁷ But whoever is united with the Lord is one with him in spirit.

¹⁸ Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a person commits are outside the body, but whoever sins sexually, sins against their own body. ¹⁹ Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; ²⁰ you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies.



Discussion Guide

If we live, we live for the Lord;
and if we die, we die for the Lord.
So, whether we live or die,
we belong to the Lord.

ROMANS 14:8



WARM UP

Do you remember the first time you were made aware you had “rights?” Share your experience and how others may have helped you understand that certain rights are important.

What are a few beneficial rights? (e.g. – “the right to remain silent.”)

EXPLORING 1 CORINTHIANS 6:12-20

Paul quotes a popular Corinthian phrase in verse 12, “I have the right to do anything.” How does he counter that phrase twice in this verse? Can the abuse of a right gain mastery over us?

Warren Wiersbe wrote the following: “They (the Corinthians) treated sex as an appetite to be satisfied and not as a gift to be cherished and used carefully.” Just as they were gluttons of food, they were gluttons of improper relationships. When people disregard sexual purity, what are some consequences?

What conclusions do you draw from the questions Paul asked in verses 15-16?

How does being “united with the Lord” make a difference in the life of believers?

Read Genesis 39 and consider Joseph’s circumstances. How did he live out Paul’s exhortation from 1 Corinthians 6:18? How did Joseph honor God through his actions in Genesis 39:12?

How have we been “bought at a price” (verse 20)? How does it make you feel to realize that you are not your own? What affect does this have on your personal choices?

What is Paul’s final command to the Corinthians in this section?

APPLICATION

Spend time reflecting on the fact that “we are not our own.” Consider the benefits of abandoning ourselves to God.

PRAYER

List one or two prayer concerns to share with your group.