

ORCHARD ROAD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

BIBLE FOR ALL (BFA) MATERIAL FOR SMALL GROUPS DISCUSSION

1 Corinthians – Building Community

Sermon Series

- 01 Mar 2020** **1 Corinthians 6:12-20** **Living in Sexual Purity**
- 15 Mar 2020** **1 Corinthians 7:1-17** **Living in Holy Matrimony**
- 22 Mar 2020** **1 Corinthians 7:18-40** **Living Out Relationships in a Transient World**
- 29 Mar 2020** **1 Corinthians 8:1-13** **Living in Humility**

01 Mar 2020

1 Corinthians 6:12-20

Living in Sexual Purity

INTRODUCTION

The church seems to have gotten the idea that what they do with their physical bodies does not really matter (v12-13), and thus came to the conclusion that sexual immorality is not really that serious.

OBSERVATION AND INTERPRETATION

1. Paul gives four reasons why sexual immorality really does matter. Each one is also an exciting truth about God. Pick them out from the passage:

	Truth about God	Why it shows sexual immorality matters
v14		
v15-16		
v18-19a		
v19b-20		

2. How do 1 Cor 3:16 and 6:19 complement each other?
3. In 6:18, Paul teaches that, contrary to much popular teaching today, sexual sin is not like any other sins. How is it that sexual sin is “against” the body while other sins are “outside” the body?

APPLICATION

4. Think of some pleasure you are fond of. Evaluate it according to the tests in 6:12-13, 19-20.
 - a. Is it beneficial?
 - b. Is it threatening to control you?
 - c. Does it glorify God, who has bought you at a price and made your body His temple?

DISCIPLESHIP POINTERS

God raises people physically – since our eternal state will be in our bodies, what we do with our bodies matter. Our bodies do not belong to us but to God, who paid a price to redeem us.

GROUP/PERSONAL REFLECTION

God cares about what you do with your body. A moral and right use of the body honours God. Sin will always be part of a Christian's life: but unrepentant sin must cease.

Are you struggling with sexual sin? Have you admitted it to yourself and to God, and asked Him to cleanse you and forgive you?

What you are next tempted to sin in this way, what truth about God do you need to remember?

Write down a key lesson that you have learnt from this study.

What is a key verse that you would like to take to heart?

15 Mar 2020

1 Corinthians 7:1-17

Living in Holy Matrimony

INTRODUCTION

1 Cor 17:1, Paul is probably quoting from what the Corinthian church “wrote about” in a letter to him. It seems some of them thought sex and marriage were somehow unspiritual and worldly, and not right for Christians who are looking forward to Jesus’ return.

OBSERVATION AND INTERPRETATION

1. What answer does Paul give to the Corinthians who wrote that “It is good for a man not to have sexual relations with a woman.” (v1-5)
2. Paul then turns to the issue of ending of marriages. Complete the table below to see how he says Christians should deal with different situations.

	Situation	Command
v10-11		
v12-14		
v15-16		

3. In verse 10, Paul points out that his advice is based on a command given by Jesus while on earth. Read Matthew 19:1-12
 - a. What does Jesus teach about divorces in Matt 19:4-6, and why?
 - b. Under what circumstances does Jesus say divorce is allowed? (Matt 19:9)

APPLICATION

4. In the passage, Paul articulated the Christian view of sex, marriage, and divorce. How is this different of the view of the society in which we live?
5. How does Paul’s teaching guard us against making *too much* or *too little* of marriage?

DISCIPLESHIP POINTERS

It is not coincidental that the first human relationship in the Bible is a marriage between Adam and Eve. The image of God is expressed in this relationship, as is the very identity of the triune God (see Genesis 1:26-28). As the Bible unfolds, it becomes clearer that marriage represents in large part God's covenant with His people. This covenant is one marked by love and promise. So, while marriage is indeed about the love and promise between husband and wife, its ultimate meaning is found in how it reflects God's promises and commitment to us, His people. This passage assumes and reflects this whole-Bible theology as it shows the depth of commitment that marriage requires and thus the cost that one needs to count before entering into a marriage covenant.

GROUP/PERSONAL REFLECTIONS

If you are married, are you loving your spouse by treating everything you have as belonging to them (v4)? How could you do this more?

Write down a key lesson that you have learnt from this study.

What is a key verse that you would like to take to heart?

DISCIPLESHIP POINTERS

When someone becomes regenerated by the Holy Spirit, everything changes. Paul teaches that not every outward circumstance must change or should change. Certain things must change, such as sexual practices, what one worships, how one treats other people, and many other things that are essential moral characteristics. Yet circumstances such as marital status, the presence or absence of circumcision, or one's vocation do not necessarily need to be changed. But everything does change in some regard, and usually significantly. From action to attitude, the gospel gives us a fundamentally new understanding of life.

GROUP/PERSONAL REFLECTION

If you are single, are you using your time and emotional energy to “live in a right way in undivided attention to the Lord” (v35)?

Are there any changes you need to make to do this more?

Thank God for:

- Making you His child.
- Giving you the circumstances you are in.

Ask God to:

- Help you be satisfied with the circumstances He has gifted you with.
- Remind you that you can serve Him whatever your situation, feelings, and relationships.

Write down a key lesson that you have learnt from this study.

What is a key verse that you would like to take to heart?

29 Mar 2020

1 Corinthians 8:1-13

Living in Humility

INTRODUCTION

Paul says Christians “all possess knowledge” (v1: they all know and understand the gospel message. He is talking about the practice of eating food sacrificed to idols (v4) but he is also setting out a principle that applies in all areas of life.

OBSERVATION AND INTERPRETATION

1. Why do we need love as well as knowledge? (v1)

2. What do Christians know about God (v4, 6)? What does this mean about other gods that people worship(v5-6)?

3. What does Paul say all Christians should know (v8)?

4. Paul knows that some of the Corinthian Christians don't know that eating meat used in idol worship is fine.
 - a. What is the problem if they eat such meat (v7, 10-11)?

 - b. What point is Paul making to Christians who know it is fine to eat this meat (v9, 13)?

 - c. What is the *loving* thing for *knowledgeable* Christians to do?

 - d. What point does Paul make in v12?

APPLICATION

5. What are some situations today where Christians need to be careful that our freedom “does not become a stumbling block”?

DISCIPLESHIP POINTERS

We are called to disadvantage ourselves for the advantage of our brothers and sisters in Christ. To do this, we must be driven by Christlike patience and protectiveness toward those who are less mature in the faith, or in their theological understanding, and who may therefore be more easily burdened by matters of Christian liberty. As Christians, not all our rights are inalienable. Each right is a gift of grace and, in that sense, not a right but a privilege.

GROUP/PERSONAL REFLECTION

Are you growing in knowledge of how to obey God by educating your conscience from God's Word as much as you can?

Are you being motivated by love for fellow Christians when you know more than a brother or sister about how to live?

In what way is your knowledge (or how you live because of your knowledge) in danger of harming other Christians?

Write down a key lesson that you have learnt from this study.

What is a key verse that you would like to take to heart?