

Discovery Group - Gospel Living

(11) *Marriage and Sexuality (a)*

Accountability

Share how your obedience commitment from last week went, and who you shared with.

Bible: 1 Corinthians 6:9-20

Read *passage* aloud & someone retell in their own words

- What do we learn from this passage about God?
- What do we learn from this passage about people?

Read the *article* on the next page.

- What do we learn from this passage about sexuality?
- Why is sexual purity such a big deal in God's Word?

Commit

What is Jesus calling you to do in *obedience* this week?

Who can you *share* this with? Who can you reach out to in order to make disciples?

Abide: Read and meditate on the following passages this week:

- Ephesians 5:1-14
- 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8
- Jude 1:3-7

Marriage and Sexuality (a)

Paul tackles the awkward subject of sexual immorality straight on, offering strong exhortations regarding sexual purity. He instructs the community to punish the ones who disobey (5:1-5). In fact, he tells them, “you must not associate with anyone who claims to be a brother or sister but is sexually immoral or greedy, an idolater or slanderer, a drunkard or swindler.” (5:11).

Our passage open with the solemn warning that people who practice sexual immorality and other sins will not inherit the Kingdom of God. This is a serious matter! Apparently some of the Corinthians argued that sexual behavior does not matter to God, that “I have the right to do anything.” Paul counters this argument by pointing out that even if I had the right to do anything, clearly not everything would be good to do. As followers of Jesus, we do not just live for ourselves, doing what we think is best or whatever we desire. We live for His glory. To benefit Him. Sexual immorality - sleeping with someone not your spouse - does not glorify Jesus. In fact, it does the opposite.

Having sex with anyone who you are not married to is a sin against your own body - and your body is a temple of God. The Most High dwells in your body. How then could you use it in an impure way through sexual immorality? That is degrading to God. Ultimately, Paul boils it down to this: “You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies.” If you are unable to grasp why God forbids sex outside of marriage, this is still true: *You belong to God*. You belong to God. You are His. You are compelled to obey and honor Him in all things because He bought you with a price.

Of course, as we read the entire message of scripture, we understand that God does have reasons for insisting on sexual purity. It is not only a matter of “*because I say so*” - even though, in the case of God, that is enough. God’s perfect design for the world includes families that consist of a father, a mother, and children. Children are given to the family through the joyful sexual union of a man and woman who are committed to one another for life. This provides a loving and stable environment in which the child can grow to know God. Sexual immorality, instead of looking to the honor of God or the good of society, is self-satisfying and selfish. The sexually immoral person greedily cares only for himself and his desires and pleasures. Indeed, he sins against his own body.