



## THE LIVING GOSPEL

### COMMUNITY GROUP GUIDE

#### 1 CORINTHIANS 6:9-20

*This study guide is to help individuals and groups learn and apply the truths of Scripture to where you are in life right now. To get the most from this study guide, work through it on your own before gathering with your community group.*

#### **REFLECTION**

1. What was the overarching idea you took away from the message this weekend?
2. Can you remember anyone having "the talk" with you? How did that go?

#### **BIBLE STUDY**

*The following questions will help you work through the passage.*

Read 1 Corinthians 6:9-20

1. What is Paul's underlying motivation for calling the Corinthians to flee from sexual immorality?
2. Why is it important to remember the gospel motivation when fleeing sexual immorality?
3. What does Paul mean when he calls us "members of Christ" and why does that matter?
4. How does Paul say sexual immorality is damaging to us?
5. Why do Christians have a hard time obeying Christ in the area of sexual immorality?
6. Paul doesn't just say to "flee" but also to "glorify God" with our bodies. What does he mean and how does that help us flee?

7. Because of the sex-saturated culture we live in, most people have a sexual past. What does the gospel tell us about how Christ views our past?

8. What step is God calling you to take from here?

## **PRAYER**

*Prayer is an essential component of your life as a follower of Christ, and an integral part of any healthy church body. As we pray toward Easter as a church, we have a great opportunity to continue praying through our prayer guide from Community Group Sunday.*

- 1) Fight to be in awe of Jesus (Psalm 119:18)
- 2) Help me to be gritty in obedience (John 15:11)
- 3) Help me live out everyday evangelism (Psalm 126:5-6)
- 4) Help me to be fervent in prayer (2 Chronicles 7:14-15)

## **COMMENTARY**

After rebuking the Corinthians for suing one another rather than resolving their disputes internally within the Church, Paul reminds the Corinthians that individuals whose lives are characterized by various types of immorality “will not inherit the kingdom of God” (1 Cor. 6:9). Paul repeats the list of immoral behaviors he set forth in 1 Corinthians 5:9-11, adding two new categories related to adultery and homosexuality. Paul then reminds the Corinthians that they themselves used to be characterized by these same sinful behaviors before they received Christ as their Savior. Miraculously, however, they “were washed,” they “were sanctified,” and they “were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God”! (1 Cor. 6:11).

Paul goes on to refute the Corinthians’ misguided theology of Christian freedom. Evidently, the Corinthians had been using the maxim, “All things are lawful for me,” to justify their immoral behavior (1 Cor. 6:12). Paul reminds them that even though certain things may be permitted under God’s law, they are not “helpful” if they lead the believer into sin and bondage. For himself, Paul refuses to be enslaved to anything or anyone other than Christ (1 Cor. 6:12; see also Rom. 1:1), thereby encouraging the Corinthians to follow suit. Paul also refutes a misunderstanding among the Corinthians concerning the propriety of certain sexual behaviors and their effect on the human body. The Corinthians apparently had attempted to justify sexual immorality (and even prostitution) by citing another common saying of their day--“Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food” (1 Cor. 6:13). They reasoned that just as God had made their stomachs to digest and enjoy food, so He had made their bodies to experience and

enjoy sexual pleasure, regardless of the context. Paul vehemently disputes the Corinthians' logic, explaining that their bodies were made to be united with Christ and a dwelling place of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 6:13-19). As such, Paul explains, extramarital sexual unions threaten the believer's union and intimacy with Christ (1 Cor. 6:15-18). With all of this in mind, Paul implores the Corinthians to "flee from sexual immorality" and to "glorify God in [their] bod[ies]" (1 Cor. 6:18, 20).