

## Sermon from Oct 20 – 1 Cor 6:12-20 – Sexual Immorality Small Group Notes

- Why, do you think, is it so uncomfortable to talk about sex?

We all regularly filter what we hear, and tune into what we are happy to accept.

- Where does the filter come from?
- What do we do if our 'filter' isn't what it should be?

Key for our discipleship is that the Bible should drive our thinking, our behaviour. Instead of our behaviour and thinking causing us to misread the Bible.

- How can the bible become a greater part of our reasoning?

Often it is interesting to realise the reasons that people change views on important topics.

- What are the reasons, you have seen, for people to change their views?
- What sources of belief can you think of?
- What things do you think might have significant influence over our culture?

The Bible is profoundly helpful in that God speaks through it, and it rises above, or stands outside our culture.

In our passage Paul starts with what they are thinking and then challenges it. It helps if we start by understanding the presenting issue from Chapter 5.

### Read 1 Corinthians 5:1-2

- Why, do you think, they would have been proud?
- How would you respond to this if you were in Paul's place?

In 1 Corinthians 6:12-14 we get some back and forth as Paul says their thinking and responds to it.

### Read 1 Corinthians 6:12-14

- What, do you imagine, were the beliefs behind these phrases?
- What wisdom do you see in Paul's responses?

Cultural Note - Corinth was known for its temple to Aphrodite. This temple was the centre of society. Many parts of work and social life were connected to the temple.

As it was dedicated to the goddess of love it was also known for its temple prostitutes. At some points they had as many as 1,000 temple prostitutes. So it was common in their society to use the temple prostitutes, as a form of worship to the gods.

The Corinthians came up with reasons to defend what their culture said was ok.

In the rest of our passage Paul uses the phrase 'do you not know' three times. These three are all very connected to each other and the situation involving temple prostitutes in Corinth.

**Read 1 Corinthians 6:15-20**

- What is the significance of the 'do you not know' phrases?
- How can we more have the mindset that Paul calls us to here?

A significant theme to this whole passage is a shift in how the Corinthians think about the body. They thought that what they do in the body doesn't need to affect their spirit. This was to allow them to do things with their bodies that they knew were wrong. Paul writes to say that what we do with our bodies especially matters.

- Where can you see this in his writing?
- What things can we take away from this passage?
- How might you help someone in any of the following positions?
  - ...confused about a sexual topic and whether it is right or wrong
  - ...feeling a high degree of shame over things done in the past
  - ...having difficulty changing their life as their efforts have failed

We all need significant levels of grace with each other as we grow in this area.