

September 28, 2014

Series Title: Living As the Cross-Centered Community

Message title: Challenging the Culture's Impact On Us (Part 2)

Passage: 1 Corinthians 6:9-20

Overview: Paul has addressed head on a problem of immorality in the church and the way it should properly be handled. He now develops a Biblical theology of sexuality to demonstrate the "why" of God's call to a different way of living in His Kingdom than what they knew from the culture of Corinth. In doing so Paul gives us a framework for wrestling with the impact of culture on our lives and on the church.

Engaging with each other

1. What is your favorite romantic comedy? Why do you think you like it so much? What view of human relationships does it reflect?

Engaging with the Bible

1. In 1 Cor. 6:9-11 Paul reminds the Corinthians of some basic truths about the ethic of God's Kingdom and about themselves. What is significant about the particular sins listed in these verses? What is different about the Corinthian believers now that Paul wants them to remember?
2. Many think the words, "Everything is permissible for me" was a phrase the Corinthians would use to justify their behavior. Why might they think this way? How does Paul challenge that notion?
3. The Corinthians seem to be arguing that just like the stomach is made for food, so the body is meant for sex as if sex is just another bodily appetite to be satisfied. In refuting this Paul says our bodies are for the Lord and that our bodies will one day be raised up by God. How does this affect the way we think about our bodies?
4. Paul then constructs an argument that begins (v. 15) and ends (v.19) with the phrase "do you not know?" In these two verses, what does he say about our bodies?
5. How does Paul use this union with Christ to argue against sexual immorality?
6. In what way are sexual sins uniquely "against one's own body?"
7. Paul concludes by saying "You are not your own, you were bought with a price. Therefore honor God with your body?" How does this lay a foundation for dealing with issues of sexual ethics?

Engaging with our lives

1. How does the culture we live in approach matters of sexual ethics? How is this attitude different from the ethic Paul is calling the Corinthians to?
2. What is the most challenging aspect of living by a biblical sexual ethic? Why is this particularly hard for younger adults?