

Series: The Cross and Culture; *Sermon:* **Sexuality**;
Delivered by: **Dr. Josh Moody**, senior pastor; *Date:* **September 16, 2018**

Bible text explored: 1 Corinthians 6:9–20

⁹Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, ¹⁰nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. ¹¹And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

¹²“All things are lawful for me,” but not all things are helpful. “All things are lawful for me,” but I will not be dominated by anything. ¹³“Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food”—and God will destroy both one and the other. The body is not meant for sexual immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. ¹⁴And God raised the Lord and will also raise us up by his power. ¹⁵Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! ¹⁶Or do you not know that he who is joined to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For, as it is written, “The two will become one flesh.”^[a] ¹⁷But he who is joined to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. ¹⁸Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body. ¹⁹Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, ²⁰for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.

^[a] Gen. 2:24

[ESV]

Review and application:

1. Around what theme is this letter structured? (See *1 Cor.* 2:2 and 15:51-57.)
2. What characteristics of Corinthian culture (vv. 9-10) does Paul single out?
How (v. 11) has this been dealt with among those who have become Jesus followers?
3. What does Paul’s repeated reference to inheriting the kingdom of God tell us about the severe consequences of indulging in sexual sin?
4. The words between quotation marks (in vv. 12-14) are slogans repeated by some of the Corinthian Christians. How had their understanding of the gospel been tainted by absorbing the outlook of their culture?
How does Paul emphatically respond (in vv. 9, 15, 16 and 19) to this thinking with a you-should-know-better phrase?
How (v. 18a) should they have been reacting to these norms of their culture?
(See also *1 Cor.* 10:14 and 23-24.)
5. Physical and spiritual elements are typically contrasted with each other. But the word rendered *members* (vv. 15-17) carries the sense of limbs or organs. How does this passage refute the post-modern belief that my mind, rather than my body determines my sexual identity?
How does Paul’s quotation from the creation narrative underscore the order determined by the Creator? (See *Gen.* 1:27)
6. How does my status as a temple of the Holy Spirit (vv. 18-20) require me to glorify God by maintaining the sacredness of my body?
7. What is the high price with which I was bought?
So whose property am I?