



1 Corinthians 6:13-20_FLEE from Sexual Immorality!!!

Nov 10, 2013

Gospel Motivation from last week...please read, listen, or watch if you missed it! You'll need it today! ☺

Today's Text: 1 Corinthians 6:13-20

1. First, let me state my singular goal today: **to strengthen your resolve to flee!!!!**
2. That's right...run. Escape. Egress. Break away. Get away. Bounce. Roll out. Decamp. Eschew. Dash. Scamper. Be outie. 5000. Break.
3. ☺ In other words, my goal is to encourage you to do WHATEVER IS REQUIRED to drastically minimize and/or eliminate the "against your own body" ridiculous-**drama** inducing damage of sexual sin!
4. Friends, this is a big one. Almost weekly, another man or woman in roles of leadership is exposed to succumbing to the lure of this type of sin...even in the church. And we should be well warned: it could happen to any of us.
5. To say our culture is saturated with sexual vice and promotes perversion and immodesty is a serious understatement.
 - I don't have to work hard to prove it...from the supermarket checkout line magazines to just about every prime time television show (even "Christian" ones), we live in a cesspool...a morass of *porneia*, the Greek word in 1 Cor 6:18 for sexual immorality.
6. And even though the King James translates the word, fornication, the word literally means "**harlotry**," and speaks to every sexual sin: adultery, incest, homosexuality, viewing sin, thoughts, and the rest.
7. It also speaks to matters of the **heart**, not just the actions...
 - *For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander. (20) These are what defile a person.... Mat 15:19-20 ESV*
 - *Mat 5:28 ESV But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart.*
8. If you recall the bit of history of Corinth we shared when we began this epistle, it shouldn't surprise us Paul had to deal with this in the strong fashion he did. Corinth too was overrun by perverse systems and appetites, and Paul was doing his best in the Holy Spirit to carve out a pure church in sin city.
9. In fact, if you note biblical language in the area of physical relations, it is almost always very **STRONG**:
 - *1Pe 4:1-5 ESV Since therefore Christ suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves with the same way of thinking, for whoever has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, (2) so as to live for the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for human passions but for the will of God. (3) For the time that is past suffices for doing what the Gentiles want to do, living in sensuality, passions, drunkenness, orgies, drinking parties, and lawless idolatry. (4) With respect to this they are surprised when you do not join them in the same flood of debauchery, and they malign you; (5) but they will give account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead.*
 - *Jud 1:7 ESV just as Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding cities, which likewise indulged in sexual immorality and pursued unnatural desire, serve as an example by undergoing a punishment of eternal fire.*
 - *Rev 2:20-23 ESV But I have this against you, that you tolerate that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess and is teaching and seducing my servants to practice sexual immorality and to eat food sacrificed to idols. (21) I gave her time to repent, but she refuses to repent of her*

sexual immorality. (22) Behold, I will throw her onto a sickbed, and those who commit adultery with her I will throw into great tribulation, unless they repent of her works, (23) and I will strike her children dead. And all the churches will know that I am he who searches mind and heart, and I will give to each of you according to your works.

- Eph 5:3-6 ESV But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints. (4) Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving. (5) For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is, an idolater), has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. (6) Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience.
- Rev 21:8 ESV But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death."

10. Yikes! Again, you get the impression that God is warning us of the seriousness of this type of sin. As my pastor said recently, "All sin will put you in hell, but some have more devastating earthly consequences." Listen to Solomon pleading with this son in Proverbs 5....

Backing up a bit:

1Co 6:9-11 ESV - Or 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, (10) nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. (11) And 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.

1. Think about the seriousness of verse 9. Moving seamlessly from the incestuous man in chapter 5 to those who engaged in unbiblical lawsuits in the first few verses of chapter 6, Paul is now expanding the warnings to the whole community.
2. He is essentially saying that people who consistently engage in these things are **deceived**. And the warning is severe in light of 1 Cor 6:8: "But you yourselves wrong and defraud--even your own brothers!" If there are "saints" among you who believe these behaviors are ok, they are deceived and might not be Christians!
3. By way of review, Minister Profit broke down the unlawful nature of the listed sins:

Unlawful sex (fornication)	(7th commandment)
Idol worship	(1st & 2nd commandment)
Adultery	(7th & 10th commandment)
Homosexuality	(7th commandment – 10th possibly)
Thievery	(8th & 10th commandment)
Greed	(10th commandment)
Drunkenness	(1st commandment)
Slander	(9th commandment)
Robbery	(8th and 10th commandment)
4. So Paul implies that consistent and casual breakers of the Commandments are rightly classified as "the unrighteous," and will not inherit the Kingdom.
 - 1Jn 3:6-8 ESV No one who abides in him keeps on sinning; no one who keeps on sinning has either seen him or known him. (7) Little children, let no one deceive you. Whoever practices righteousness is righteous, as he is righteous. (8) Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of

the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil.

5. Then he calls the church to **purity** by reminding them of both their great salvation and the call to wisdom by understanding the nature of Christian freedom. News flash: it ain't for law breaking! (v11-12)

Verses 13-20: Flee!

1. (V13) *"Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food"* was likely a slogan or cultural proverb in Corinth.
 - a. It implied that certain things were just biological, like eating. No big deal. Apparently, this was the attitude for many about physical relations.
 - b. Does this sound familiar in America today? In our music? In our churches? What happened to shame and **modesty**?
2. (v13) Paul destroys this idea by asserting the **temporal** nature of man.
 - a. Man is under judgment. Biology or not, God has established absolute rights and wrongs, and for the unsaved, he will perish along with the old earth...stomach and food.
3. (v13) – So the physical body might need to eat, but it still isn't meant for **immorality**.
 - a. Our bodies belong to the Lord (just like our souls). AND, the Lord sanctifies and then will one day save the body. One day, we will be like him!
4. (v14) Again, this is another reminder for the Corinth church to the coming judgment and resurrection. Remember how we said that judgment can be a good motivator?
 - a. *1Co 15:51-53 ESV Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, (52) in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. (53) For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality.*
 - b. *Joh 5:28-29 ESV Do not marvel at this, for an hour is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear his voice (29) and come out, those who have done good to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil to the resurrection of judgment.*
5. (v15) Now really catch the implications here: our bodies...these same bodies...are **members** of Christ! Hold on...and think biblically here...
 - a. As we move towards the resurrection of the dead in Christ...these SAME bodies...although they will be glorified...will be the same bodies! Yes...made incorruptible...but still in same way, the same!
 - b. Our bodies...NOW...are one (members with) with the resurrected Lord. Our bodies then, will be eternal...but still united with Christ!
 - c. Not only that, but our bodies are a part of his Body...the church!
 - d. Therefore, WHAT WE DO WITH OUR BODIES...MATTERS. That is the point!
 - e. For the Christian, to commit sexual sin should be thought of as uniting our Lord with that sin. Of course this doesn't happen in the sense that He is anyway tainted, but think about how He who dwells in you must feel!!
6. (v16) Regardless of whether you have a ring on or not, physically consummating a relationship makes you "**one** in body" with the person. You've "married" them in an unlawful way. "For the two became one flesh."
 - a. BUT, we are one in body with the Lord! So....
 - b. When a believer commits sexual sin is especially egregious spiritually because, in some sense that is admittedly hard to understand, it unites Christ with a prostitute! (v15)

- c. All sexual sin is harlotry because it takes what belongs in a god-honoring marriage and perverts it.
 - d. The physical union between man and wife IS what sets marriage apart before the Lord and is a tangible **demonstration** of the spiritual component of marriage. God sees the two as one, symbolic of Christ and the church. (Eph 5:31-32)
7. (v17) The “one in spirit” relationship we have with the Lord cost Jesus His **life**.
- a. We must realize that eternal nature of this bond, the cost, and who privileged we are to have been chosen by grace and through faith.
 - b. Then we must understand the spiritual **degradation** we drag Christ through when we unite Him with any form of harlotry.
 - c. We are one with the Lord!!!! (John 14:23, 15:4; Col 1:27) This should duly motivate us to FLEE.
8. (v18) **FLEE!**
- a. Not only do we sin against Christ perverting the spirit/body relationship...
 - b. But sexual sin is actually against the body as well. I like John MacArthur’s comment on this:
 - c. “There is a sense in which sexual sin destroys a person like no other, because it is so intimate and entangling, corrupting on the deepest human level. But Paul here may be referring to disease.”
 - d. Sexual sin is against Christ and against one’s own body. It is damaging on every level:
 - Spiritually
 - Mentally
 - Emotionally
 - Physically
 - For all involved
 - e. The proper response to this temptation is to FLEE.
 - Run from it. Don’t play with it!!!
 - You are NOT strong enough. You are NOT too smart. NO...you cannot handle it. NO, it’s not cute.
 - Yes, it will take you away.
 - It’s one of the big three for most men: sex, power, money.
 - For women, the desire to be desired is right up there too.
 - Run Forrest...RUN!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
9. (v19) The Christian’s body is a spiritual temple in which the Holy Spirit dwells!
- a. “Every act of fornication, adultery, or any other sin is committed by the believer in the sanctuary, the Holy of Holies, where God dwells.” Wow.
 - b. Are you ready to run yet?
10. (v20) You are bought with a **price**. Therefore the chief end of man (glorifying God) applies to our bodies as well...

*1Pe 1:18-19 ESV knowing that **you were ransomed** from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, (19) **but with the precious blood of Christ**, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot.*

A few practical FLEEING strategies:

1. Prayer. Pray for strength and in full recognition of the battle!
2. Accountability. Have someone wise in the Lord in your life with whom you are totally open.
3. Media. Seriously watch out here: Twitter, Facebook, TV, web, Instagram, etc. Minefields all!

4. For some of you, marriage! 😊
5. For men...eyes eyes eyes. Make a covenant with your eyes! Bounce them! Shields!
6. For ladies...heart, heart, heart. Guard it! Be careful with your thoughts of intimacy and romance!

The bottom line is...RUN. This sin seeks out whom it may devour!! 😊

*Gen 39:10-12 ESV And as she spoke to Joseph day after day, he would not listen to her, to lie beside her or to be with her. (11) But one day, when he went into the house to do his work and none of the men of the house was there in the house, (12) she caught him by his garment, saying, "Lie with me." **But he left his garment in her hand and fled and got out of the house.***