

1 Corinthians Part 2

You Are Not Your Own

BIG IDEA Because believers have been washed, sanctified, justified, and bought by Christ, they honor God in their bodies and relationships, practice restorative discipline, and receive both marriage and singleness as opportunities for faithful service.

SERIES QUESTION What problem is Paul addressing, and how does the gospel answer it?

The thread through chapters 5 to 7

Paul addresses discipline, lawsuits, sexuality, marriage, divorce, singleness, and social status. The subjects are connected by belonging: the church belongs to Christ, believers belong to Christ, and their bodies and relationships cannot be separated from discipleship.

Follow the movement

PASSAGE	GOSPEL SHAPED RESPONSE
5:1-13	Practice restorative discipline because Christ made the church his holy people.
6:1-11	Handle conflict with wisdom and self-giving love; remember that Christ washed, sanctified, and justified his people.
6:12-20	Reject enslaving appetites and honor God bodily because believers belong to Christ and the Holy Spirit dwells within them.
7:1-40	Receive marriage and singleness as callings for faithful service during this passing age.

Restorative holiness

NOT THIS	BUT THIS
Ignoring persistent public sin	Grieving, confronting, and seeking repentance
Humiliation or vengeance	Accountability aimed at restoration
Policing every unbeliever	Taking the church's own witness seriously
Treating grace as approval	Living as people shaped by Christ's sacrifice
Keeping crimes inside the church	Protecting people and involving civil authorities when required

Why the body matters

PAUL'S CLAIM	WHY IT CHANGES OUR LIFE
God raised Jesus and will raise us	Our bodies are part of God's saving future.
Our bodies are members of Christ	Bodily choices cannot be separated from union with Christ.
Sex creates a one-flesh union	Sexual intimacy is covenantal and personal, not a meaningless transaction.
The body is the Spirit's temple	God is present with us and claims our embodied lives.
Christ bought us at a price	Christian freedom serves Christ rather than appetite or self-ownership.

GOSPEL CENTER Some of you once lived in the patterns Paul names, but God washed, sanctified, and justified you in the name of Jesus Christ and by the Spirit. Grace neither calls sin harmless nor calls sinners hopeless.

Marriage singleness and faithful calling

- Marriage includes mutual care, reciprocal responsibility, faithfulness, and consent.
- Spiritual difference alone does not invalidate a marriage to an unbeliever.
- God calls believers to peace; Scripture must never be used to conceal abuse or return someone to danger.
- Conversion does not require a new social status before someone can serve Christ faithfully.
- Singleness can allow undivided devotion to Christ; marriage is not sin, and singleness is not failure.

The Gospel Then and Now

CHURCH REALITY THEN The Corinthians tolerated public sin, used courts against one another, treated bodies as disposable, and debated marriage and singleness.

CHURCH TEMPTATION NOW We can confuse grace with approval, conceal abuse, weaponize sexual ethics, idolize marriage, or treat singleness as an incomplete life.

GOSPEL SHAPED CHURCH Because Christ washed and bought his people, the church pursues restoration, protects the vulnerable, honors God bodily, and supports faithful marriage and singleness.

Discuss

1. How can church discipline communicate both the seriousness of sin and the hope of restoration?
2. Why is 'that is what some of you were' essential when teaching the vice list?
3. How do resurrection, union with Christ, and the Holy Spirit make bodily choices more than private decisions?
4. What is the difference between Christian freedom and being mastered by an appetite or desire?
5. How can the church honor marriage without treating singleness as an incomplete Christian life?

For further study

ECO CONNECTION Essential Tenets III.C, covenant life in the church; and III.E, living in obedience to the Word of God. eco-pres.org/constitution/

READ MORE ONLINE BibleProject, Book of 1 Corinthians Guide: bibleproject.com/guides/book-of-1-corinthians/

CLASS RESOURCES AND UPCOMING LESSONS

keithbreuer615.github.io/pauls-letters-class/



BEFORE NEXT WEEK START HERE: Read 1 Corinthians 8-10. CONTINUE IF POSSIBLE: Read chapters 11-14. Watch for Paul's repeated questions: What builds up the church? How must love govern freedom, worship, and spiritual gifts?