

Body by God

Discovering Principles from 1 & 2 Corinthians about Building Up Christ's Body

Hopelessly Devoted

Introduction to 1 Corinthians 5-7

The 5 Purposes of the Purpose Driven Life

- **Worship**—You were planned for God's pleasure
- **Fellowship**—You were formed for God's family
- **Discipleship**—You were created to become like Christ
- **Ministry**—You were shaped for serving God
- **Evangelism**—You were made for a mission

No matter how hard Sandy Olsson tried to get over Danny Zuko in the movie, *Grease*, she couldn't—she was so "hopelessly devoted" to him that they wound up back together. Such devotion to another leads us to swallow our pride, and eventually line up with the one we love. This mindset provides the impetus to obey Paul's instructions in 1 Corinthians 5-7. There he confronts several issues in which he encourages the Corinthians to place their obedience to Christ ahead of their own personal desires. The only way he could reasonably expect them to do this was on the basis of their devotion to Christ. His first challenge was over their continuing fellowship with a church member who had married his step-mother. Re-

mindning them of Christ's sacrifice on their behalf, Paul called them to remove this one from their fellowship until he repented of his behavior. They were to worship the Lord with sincerity and truth, and be devoted to Him, and this behavior defiled them, thus interfering with their worship. Then, addressing the issue of two Christians suing one another, he told them to regard such issues as not worth pursuing, in light of their devotion to Christ. Paul then challenged their idea of freedom that permitted them to act immorally. For those devoted to Christ, this should be unthinkable, for they had been bought with the price of His blood. Finally, Paul instructed both the single and the



Following God's principles will develop a church body that can glorify Him fully

married. Married couples were to give themselves to each other sacrificially to encourage wholehearted commitment to Christ; those single were to remain single, if possible, to secure undistracted devotion to Him. While these are all difficult guidelines, they can be followed if Christ's people are hopelessly devoted to Him.

Study/Discussion Questions for 1 Corinthians 5-7

(For answers to questions attend an ABF or go to www.celebrationnet.com/resources/leader resources)

1. Read 5:1-8. What was going on in the church, and how had they handled it (v1, 2)? What should they have done (v2, 5, 7), and why (v5, 6, 7, 8)? Apply to today.

2. What principle did Paul lay down in 5:9-13 (v9)? What did this not mean and why (v9-10, 13), and what did it mean (v11), and why (v12-13)?

3. In 6:1-7 what was the church doing wrong (v1, 6), how should they have handled this (v5), and why is this true (v2, 3, 7)? How should we do this today?

(Continued on Next Page)

I Corinthians 5-7 Study Questions (cont)

4. According to 6:8-11 what was the root issue of their lawsuits (v8), and into what category might this have placed them (v9-10)? How did Paul describe their true identity (v11), and how should that have affected their behavior?

5. From 6:12-20 what 2 limits to our freedom should guide us (v12)? Why is the abuse of freedom in sexual activity in a class of its own (v13, 14, 15-17, 18, 19-20)?

6. Based on 7:1-7 how should spouses behave in their sexual relations (v3, 5) and why (v4, 5)? What is Paul's preference concerning marriage in general (v1-2, 6-7)?

7. Using 7:8-16 why does Paul permit marriage (v9) and what does he mean? What is not permissible in marriage (v10-11), what is permissible (v12-13, 15), and why (v14, 15-16)?

8. In 7:17-24 what principle does Paul advocate (v20, 24), and what 2 things does he specifically have in mind (v18-19, 21-23)? How should we apply this today?

9. Looking at 7:25-35, what was Paul's attitude toward singleness (v25-27, 35), and why (v32, 34)? How did he feel about marriage (v28), and why (v33)? In general, what goal should marrieds and singles have (v35)?

10. In that day, according to 7:36-38, what was Paul's advice for fathers (v36-37), and for widows (v39-40)? Why do you think Paul said this, and should we follow this advice today?

11. In your ABF discuss how passionate devotion to Christ is necessary to confront complacency with discipline, concede lovingly your legal position, commit to sexual purity, and to remain content with your station in life.

"For you have been bought with a price; therefore glorify God with in your body."

1 Corinthians 6:20

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Life Group Questions

(Using questions based on today's message, Life Groups meet in homes to build supportive relationships with others at Celebration Fellowship)

1. Share with the group what you and your family do when the lights go out in an electrical storm. How does it feel to be "in the dark" in any realm—physical, intellectual, spiritual, etc?
2. Discuss what you think are the most typical answers to the questions "where did I come from?", "where am I going?", and "why am I here?". How would you answer them?
3. How would you define moral and spiritual darkness? What are some evidences that mankind is enveloped by both of these today?
4. Talk about the need to be sensitive and to be real when helping dispel the darkness. How can we cultivate these two ways of living?
5. Why do we tend to become protective and isolate, rather than becoming involved. How can we help each other guard against this?
6. Discuss anything else that impressed you from this week's message if you have time.