

DAY 2

GLORIFY GOD WITH YOUR BODY

Chapters 5-7

Corinth a city of sexual immorality ...

1. The man with his mother-in-law

Shocking according to Paul, but they boasting – of their liberal outlook?! Perhaps powerful person

Paul:

- Exclude him ... but hope he returns
- Sin spreads ... like leaven
- But Christ our Passover lamb has been sacrificed!
- Paul not judging outsiders ... disgraceful that some of you taking other Christians to the secular courts
- A warning of judgment on a wide range of sins; but you were washed ... (6:9-11, including Paul on homosexual acts, see also Romans 1)

Questions: do we take sin seriously in our churches? Should we be exercising discipline? If so, how?

2. Men going to prostitutes

Probably on grounds of grace and Christian freedom, and temporariness of the body ... saying it doesn't do any harm, any more than eating or drinking ...

Paul

- The body, the body, the body ... belongs to Jesus and the Spirit
- It will be raised ... (1 Corinthians 15, raised and transformed ...)
- Immorality a sin against your own body ... because sexual union a deep one flesh union (Genesis)
- Unthinkable to be joined to Christ and to a prostitute

Questions: what attitudes towards the human body do we meet in society today? How should a Christian view be different, and why? How can we glorify God with our bodies?

[We need to appreciate baptism in 1 Corinthians and Paul's letters: conversion/baptism means being united with him, and belonging with him]

3. 'It is good for a man not to touch a woman' – sexually

Keen Corinthians' idea of spirituality – no sexual activity, including for married people, who should separate in order to be holy

Paul:

Singleness: a valuable calling for the work of God, but a gift only for some. Others should marry (in the Lord), and not divorce (so Jesus)

Questions: do we in the church today have too high or too low a view of singleness? Do we help people to have a positive view of sex as something good, or a negative view? How can we encourage people, young people especially, to have a healthy view of sex and to live in God's way?