

## **INTRODUCE**

Well, good morning church! If I haven't met you yet, my name is

**SLIDE "Chris Bar"** Chris Martin, and I'm the Lead Pastor here.

## **ELDER UPDATE VIDEO**

Before we get started check out this video from the Shelly family as they've been on Sabbatical from Eric being an elder.

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So, that's great news to have these guys back. In a few weeks Eric and I will be talking about rest and sabbatical on a Sunday morning, so keep an eye out for that.

## **BIBLES**

If you've got your Bibles, and I hope you do, please open them up to 1 Corinthians chapter 6. 1 Corinthians 6. That's where we're going to be.

We want every person to have a hand on their Bible. You can open your phone or tablet and literally Google search 1 Corinthians 6.

## **INTRODUCTION: CONDEMNATION VS. CONVICTION**

So, we are in the 15<sup>th</sup> week of our 1 Corinthians sermon series. And really, the next few weeks we are talking about sex, and specifically today, sexual sin. And with sexual sin can come a whole lot of guilt and shame, because I think it is safe to say that every one of us has some sort of sexual brokenness.

So, before we get into this, I want to mention two things. First, **SLIDE**  
ROMANS 8:1 says [1] There is therefore now no condemnation for those  
who are in Christ Jesus.

- So, if you are in Christ,
- and today you hear the whispers of CONDEMNATION,
- those are not from the Father.
- Condemnation comes from the enemy,
- not from God.

But we do find in Romans 2 that CONVICTION is kindness from God that leads us to repentance.

- So, if you hear words of CONDEMNATION today,
  - they are not from God...
- but if you feel pangs of CONVICTION...
  - those are good gifts from God
  - through his Spirit
  - to the believer,
  - beckoning us to repent
  - and change the direction of our lives.

## **EXPLAIN: GOD CREATED SEX**

Now, one thing I want to say, even before we get into our text for the day is this: **sex is good.** From a Biblical perspective,

- sex is not bad...
- sex is not dirty...
- sex is not sin.

In fact, who created sex?

- Yeah, God did.
- Man didn't create sex.
- The media didn't create sex.
- Playboy didn't create sex.
- God did,
- and it is a good gift from God!

You do realize God could have come up with any number of ways for us to procreate, right?

- We could've laid eggs...
- We could have reproduced asexually like some plants and animals...
- Goodness, God could've just had your earlobes swell up, and \*pop\* - twins!

But that's not how he chose to create sex.

- He created sex for both procreation and recreation.
- He created how it feels.
- But...he created sex for a particular time
- and particular circumstance.

And the Bible is clear,

- sex if for a one man and one woman in one marriage.
- Period.
- No exceptions.

We find this in Genesis 2, which Paul will quote later in our text, but let me just read this:

## **SLIDE GENESIS 2:24-25**

[24] Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. [25] And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.

- So, God created sex,
- and it was good,
- and it was for one man and one woman in one marriage.

### **EXPLAIN: ONE FLESH**

And notice: this all happens before Genesis 3, where sin enters the universe. We call that “the fall”.

**Humans were sexual BEFORE they were sinful.**

And perhaps the most important line in that Genesis 2 passage for our purposes today is in verse 24 when it says that **they shall become one flesh.**

What that means is that

- when a husband and wife
- unite in marriage
- they become one,
- where one ends and the other begins is unknown...
- $1+1=1$
- And in the Hebrew mind,
- **Two becoming one flesh**
- was much more than a physical statement.

To quote Matt Chandler, this was the “mingling of souls”.

- Mind, body, and spirit are united in sex.
- That’s why sex is such a powerful thing!
- And that’s why sex is only supposed to be had in marriage.
- **Marriage is the only furnace able to withstand the heat of sex.**
  - It will burn everything else down.

### **ILLUSTRATION: KELLER**

Now, the Biblical sexual ethic is VERY unpopular...but it is biblical!

I heard a Tim Keller interview this week, where he proposed that there are 4 things that all Biblical Christians should agree upon:

1. A commitment to racial equality
2. A commitment to being pro-life
3. A commitment to care for the marginalized
4. And a commitment to the Biblical sex ethic of one man, one woman, one marriage.

And notice, two of those would be considered politically conservative, and the other two would be considered politically liberal.

- So, we aren’t talking about conservative or liberal here...
- we aren’t talking about what’s hip or cool or culturally relevant...
- but rather, what the Biblical sexual ethic is.

## TRANSITION

So, God created sex as a good gift for human beings to enjoy within the bounds of marriage. But as we all know, sex can quickly and easily be corrupted...and that's what has happened to the Corinthian church. So, let's look at 1 Corinthians 6, starting in verse 12.

### SLIDE 1 CORINTHIANS 6:12-14

[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. [14] And God raised the Lord and will also raise us up by his power.

### EXPLAIN: SAYINGS

Now, Paul begins by quoting two sayings used in Corinthian culture, and comments on them. And Paul is implying that the Corinthian church had begun to adopt these worldly wisdoms as their own, but Paul's response is, "NO!"

- *All things are lawful for me?*
  - *No! Not all things are helpful.*
- *All things are lawful for me?*
  - *No! I will not be dominated by anything!*

You see, the problem the Corinthians were facing is a problem a lot of Christians face, and that is this licentious attitude of,

- *“I’m saved, so I can do whatever I want.”*
- *“I’m saved, so God will forgive me if I do that.”*
- *“I’m saved, so I’m free!”*

But Paul’s like, **“No! You aren’t free TO sin, you are free FROM sin!”**

You’re not free TO sin...you’re free FROM sin!

But I see it all the time: in response to legalism, many Christians have swung to liberty! To licentiousness!

- For fear of being labeled a legalist,
- or a prude,
- or irrelevant...
- they’ve erred in not taking their behavior seriously...

But Paul’s like:

- **all things are NOT helpful,**
- **and I will NOT be dominated by anything!**

And then Paul quotes another saying, **food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food.**

- Which is another idiom in Corinth, that’s basically saying,
- *“Hey, sex, it’s just natural.*
- *If you’re thirsty...you get a drink.*
- *If you’re hungry...you eat.*
- *And if you have sexual desires...well, it’s just natural, so go for it.”*

## EXPLAIN: DUALISM

And this thought was largely built on the Greek philosophical framework called Dualism.

- Dualism was taught by Plato
- and it believed that the material world,
  - including sex,
  - was simply physical.
- And the soul was separate.
- And so, under Greek thought,
- sex was just physical.
- Not spiritual at all.
- It was just physical.
- Like food for the stomach.

And our culture is heavily Platonic...goodness, even Christians often believe more like Plato than Paul.

- *“Yeah, some stuff is spiritual*
- *but some isn’t...*
- *like eating,*
- *and drinking,*
- *God doesn’t care about that stuff.*
- *Doesn’t God just want my heart?”*

You ever hear stuff like that?



But Paul was a Hebrew,

- and in the Hebrew mind,
- back to Genesis 2,
- sex was two becoming one flesh...
- the mingling of souls...
- the physical and the spiritual were intimately connected!

So, he says in verse 13: **The body is not meant for sexual immorality, but for the Lord.**

### **EXPLAIN: PORNEIA**

Now, the Greek word for 'Sexual Immorality' is *porneia*, which sounds familiar, right? That's because that's where we get our word pornography.

- And anything outside of Genesis 2 sexuality is *porneia*.
- Anything outside of one man, one woman, one marriage;
- is *porneia*.
  - So, sleeping with your boyfriend or girlfriend or fiancé,
  - adultery,
  - homosexuality,
  - hook-ups,
  - oral sex,
  - pornography...
- it's all *porneia*.
- It's a distortion of God's good gift of sex.
- **It's all Genesis 3 sex...not Genesis 2 sex.**
- It's all sin.

## TRANSITION

So, Paul's first point in this section is that

- the Corinthians were being sexually immoral,
- and that they were trying to excuse it as merely physical,
- but he reminds them that ALL *porneia* is sin!

On to verse 15:

### SLIDE 1 CORINTHIANS 6:15-17

[15] Do 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! [16] Or 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." [17] But he who is joined to the Lord becomes one spirit with him.

## EXPLAIN: PROSTITUTION

Now, prostitution was the *porneia* of choice in Corinth, because they mixed sex into their Greek religion.

- One way you would worship the God's in the pantheon,
- especially Aphrodite,
- was to have sex with cult prostitutes.

And so, Paul ups the ante in his rebuke. Ok?

- At first he was saying that they were excusing their sins
- by claiming that they were just physical,
- and hammering on this dualism thing.

But now he attacks that dualistic thought even more.

- He says, **your bodies are members of Christ.**
- **He who is joined to the Lord becomes one spirit with him.**

Now, that's ratcheting this thing up a notch,

- because he quotes Genesis 2 and says,
- *whenever two people have sex,*
- *they are becoming one flesh.*
- *And you're joining with a prostitute...*
- *but you are already joined to Christ!*

I think he's saying this:

- ***just as adultery is detrimental to marriage,***
  - ***so porneia is detrimental to your relationship with God.***
- ***In adultery you cheat on your spouse,***
  - ***in porneia you cheat on your God.***

*You are one spirit with the Lord. Don't go dragging him to a prostitute.*

Paul is just hammering that it is unbiblical to separate the physical from the spiritual. Dualism is not a Biblical philosophy.

## **EXPLAIN: ENLIGHTENED**

You see, so many people think we are in a much more enlightened world on the topic of sex. That somehow,

- we are modern,
- and we are enlightened,
- and we just have a high view of sex.

But I would argue that the Bible has a much, MUCH higher view of sex than the world does.

- In the world, sex is only physical.
- It's an exchange of fluids.
- It's an exchange of temporary pleasure.
- It's an animalistic instinct
- and a consumption to meet that desire.

In the Bible,

- sex is holy.
- It is holistic.
- It is integrated.
- It is worship.
- It is two becoming one.

The Bible's view on sex is like a \$200 Kobe beef steak,  
while the world's view on sex is like a microwave Salisbury steak.

## **TRANSITION**

Paul is saying,

- don't cheapen sex down to the physical.
- Don't rob yourself of this good gift that God has blessed us with.
- Don't settle for that!
- And don't you dare drag the Christ into this.

He takes this VERY seriously!

And then, right on the tail of all that theology and philosophy,

- Paul gives the church a black-and-white,
- no room for misinterpretation,
- instruction on what to do with sexual immorality in verse 18.

## **SLIDE 1 CORINTHIANS 6:18a**

**[18] Flee from sexual immorality.**

### **EXPLAIN: FLEE**

That's Greek for, "Run for your freaking life!"

- Now, *flee* is not exactly synonymous with run, ok?
- To flee is to run...
- but it's so much more...
- it's to escape.
- It's, "*run for your life!*"

And as I think about it, I can't think of ANY other sin in the Bible, where we are told to flee.

When it comes to temptation and even the devil's schemes, we are told to stand firm and fight...to resist.

But to my knowledge, *porneia* is the only sin in the Bible where God's instruction is for us to flee, rather than to stand our ground.

## EXPLAIN: POTIPHAR'S WIFE

And some of the scholars I read think that Paul might be alluding to the story of Joseph and Potiphar's Wife from Genesis 39.

- That's where when the young,
- attractive slave, Joseph
- is being pursued by a rather randy Potiphar's Wife,
  - who by the way,
  - isn't even given a name,
  - because she represents
  - many *Potiphar's Wives*
  - throughout history.
- But Joseph finds himself alone with her
- and she thrusts herself on him,
- and he flees,
- he escapes...
- he even leaves his outer coat in her clutches.
- And he runs for his life!

## APPLICATION: POTIPHAR'S WIFE

So listen, we live in a world just like Corinth.

- And God's call to us
- is to flee!
- Whatever the *porneia* you may struggle with is...
- You run for your life.

But a lot of times we don't flee...we flirt.

We flirt with sexual immorality. And here's how we justify it. We say things like:

- *"It's just a lunch."*
- *"Oh...he's just my work buddy."*
- *"He understands me. He laughs at my jokes."*
- *"It's just a text."*
- *"We were friends back in college, and I haven't talked to her in so long. So, we're just gonna catch up on Facebook."*

Or we say,

- *"It's just a picture."*
- *It's just a video.*
- *It's just a website."*

Listen,

- some of you need to delete Potiphar's wife from your phone.
- Some of you need to stop watching videos of Potiphar's wife on the internet.
- Some of you need to block Potiphar's wife from social media.
- Some of you need to stop going to the gym when you know Potiphar's wife is there.
- I don't know what the equivalent of Potiphar's wife is for you ladies...maybe Potiphar himself...but whatever...

But the message is the same!

- FLEE! Don't flirt!
- Run away!
- Get as far away as you possibly can!

## EXPLAIN: SERMON ON THE MOUNT

When Jesus teaches on the issue of lust in the Sermon on the Mount he says, “*Take drastic measures. If your eye causes you to sin, tear it out of your head. If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off.*”

- Listen, if your phone causes you to sin, get a dumber phone.
  - We survived for thousands of years before the iPhone!
  - I don't know how, but we did!
- If your computer causes you to sin,
  - Get rid of it, or...
  - move it out of the office or bedroom,
  - and put it in a room where your whole family hangs out,
  - get it out in public.
- If you're WAY too close with that guy at work,
  - I'm serious, find a new job!
  - No one talks about it,
  - but the whole Jim and Pam thing on the Office
  - is way sketchy!

Martin Luther has a very famous quote when asked how he dealt with the problem of lust, and his reply was great. He said,

- “You cannot keep birds from flying over your head,
- but you can keep them from building a nest in your hair”

Some of you are letting the birds make a nest in your hair...and it will not end well!



## TRANSITION

Flee! DO WHATEVER IT TAKES!

Here's how serious Paul is about this: look at the rest of our text.

### SLIDE 1 CORINTHIANS 6:18-20

[18] Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body. [19] Or 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, [20] for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.

### EXPLAIN: UNIQUE

Sexual sin is a unique sin. When you sin sexually, you damage the deepest part of your being. Why?

- Because sex is meant to be a union
- between a husband and wife,
- a mingling of souls,
- the “two becoming one flesh” thing...
- this puts sexual sin into a category of its own.

You sin against your own body, the very place the Holy Spirit resides.

Now, what does that mean? Cause it seems there are other ways to sin against my body. But let me put it like this:

- If I were to sin with alcohol, getting drunk...
  - I am not becoming one flesh with Jack Daniels.
- If I were to sin with food, gluttony...
  - I would not become one flesh with my Chipotle.

Sexual sin is a unique sin.

### **ILLUSTRATION: MY SIN**

And I know this all too well, because, of all my sin. Of ALL my sin. And hear me, THERE'S A LOT OF IT. But of all my sin...my sexual sin is just in a different category. It just is.

- And if I could change one thing about my life...
- I would go back to every single moment where sinned sexually,
- And I would change EVERY SINGLE decision.

And all the other stuff I've done, it bothers me. But sexual sin...it just bothers me different. And the ghosts of sexual sin can still affect me.

Why is this so important? Because sexual sin is unlike any other sin we can commit.

### **CONCLUSION**

Now, there are only two imperatives, or instructions to us in this text.

- The first is **flee from sexual immorality.**
- The second is at the very end. **Glorify God in your body.**

You see, it will never be enough to simply run from sexual sin.

- No, as you run FROM sin
- you must run TO something...
- and that's what he means!
- Run TO God...glorify God.

And the good news of the Gospel of Jesus Christ

- is that you are not your own...
- you were bought with a price.

When you run FROM your sexual sin, and turn TO your Heavenly Father, you will run into the forgiveness that God has for you. Remember back to the very beginning of this sermon. Romans 8:

### **SLIDE ROMANS 8:1**

[1] There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

So listen, if you're caught in sexual sin this morning, I invite you back to the place of the mercy of Jesus. Not condemnation.

- If you're defiant in your sexual sin, I warn you,
- you are playing with fire!

But if you are battered and broken, Jesus will make you new.

- Church, FLEE from sexual temptation...
- and as you run from it,
- you will find that God is there...
- you will find that he is the one you run to.

And listen, if you want help with this, please reach out to us this week.  
It would be our great joy to walk with you towards sexual purity.

Let me pray for us.

## **COMMUNION**

Well, every week at Fathom we respond in 4 ways:

- First, every week we celebrate communion—The Lord’s Supper—
  - We take a little bit of bread and juice, two common elements given to us by Jesus to represent his body and blood sacrificed for us.
  - When we eat and drink, we are remembering his sacrifice, and proclaiming once again that we believe in him as our Lord and Savior.
  - If you are a Christian here today please get your communion elements ready, as we’ll all take communion together.
  - If you are NOT a Christian, we ask you to abstain from taking communion, as this ordinance means you are a believer...and you are welcome at Fathom even if you are not.
- Second, we normally give of our tithes & offerings as a community.  
And this is still needed.
  - Church, even though we are not meeting physically, we are still practicing first fruits giving.
  - We give our first and our best because in Christ Jesus God gave us his first and his best.

- So, if Fathom is your home church, and you regularly give in the offering boxes, please go to **SLIDE** [fathomchurch.org/give](https://fathomchurch.org/give) or click the link at the top of the screen marked “Give” and give online.
- Third, the staff and elders are here to pray for you, and we are committed to continue this. So, if you have any prayer needs, please click on the screen and submit a prayer request, or go to **SLIDE** [fathomchurch.org/prayer](https://fathomchurch.org/prayer)
- And finally, we always end with singing praise and worship to our God. Singing is an unbelievably important part of our gathering, and even as we are scattered in this season, let’s continue to worship through song together.

So, I’m going to read the Words of Institution from the Apostle Paul, we’ll take communion, and then we’ll sing:

## 1 CORINTHIANS 11:23–26 – WORDS OF INSTITUTION

### **SLIDE Communion 1**

[23] For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, [24] and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, “This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” **TAKE**

### **SLIDE Communion 2**

[25] In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.” **TAKE**

**SLIDE Communion 3**

[26] For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Love you church, let's sing together.

## **BENEDICTION**

Well, thanks church for gathering with us. We will be online next Sunday, as well, same time.

If you're on our email list, you have an email waiting for you in your inbox, with all the links from this morning's service.

I'll leave you with this benediction from the book of 1 Thessalonians:

### **SLIDE 1 THESSALONIANS 3:12–13**

May the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, as we do for you, [13] so that he may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

Love you, church. Have a great week!