

1 Corinthians study
Fall 2020
Led by Rev. Sara Hill
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**Week 3 study guide “Everybody’s Doing It”
1 Corinthians 6-8.**

Read through chapters 6-8. Underline verses that stand out. Jot down questions you have.

Read 1 Corinthians 6:1-8 and summarize one or two principles that stand out to you.

Look up Romans 13:1-5. This passage was also written by Paul. What insights do these verses give us about God’s view of a secular government’s involvement with criminal affairs?

Melissa Spoelstra encourages us to specifically love and care for one another. Think about the kinds of disputes that you have with other believers over “ordinary matters.” How could you work out that difference in a way that embraces community? How could you work out that difference in a way that shows you are “standing with people, not on issues,” as Carlos Whittaker says?

Spoelstra also encourages us to stand up for injustice. What are some practical ways God might be calling you to stand up for injustice- whether across the globe or right in your own community?

Read Matthew 5:39-41.

When someone slaps on the right cheek, you should:

When someone sues you in court and your shirt is taken, you should:

When someone demands you carry his gear for a mile you should:

Read 1 Corinthians 6:9-20. What do we learn about the past lives of some of the Corinthians believers (v. 9-11)? How would you summarize their lives?

Paul lists a lot of sins in 1 Corinthians 6:9-10. What sins do you most frequently struggle with? How have you seen God free you from sins that you have battled in the past?

According to verses 12-13, what were the two excuses that the Corinthians used?

How did Paul respond to their statement of liberty used as an excuse for sin? (v. 12)

God knows our tendency to trade our freedom for a new kind of slavery. Let's look at some other Scripture. Summarize the following verses:

Galatians 5:13

Romans 6:1-4

What is the connection between these verses and what Paul is teaching in 1 Corinthians 6 about not using our freedom as an excuse to sin?

Each of us struggles with different sins in our lives. Even at different points in our lives, different sins might be more tempting than others. What specific sins are you struggling with right now? Present these struggles to the Lord. Express your desire to turn from these sins. Use this space to write a prayer to the Lord if you'd like.

Reread 1 Corinthians 6:15-17 and summarize Paul's arguments.

Based on these thoughts, Paul initiated two clear directives in verses 18-20. Write them below.

What reason does Paul give to run from sexual sin?

In 1 Corinthians 7, Paul talks about marriage. This section is a reminder that sometimes God's will is very clear and prescriptive. Other times, God's will is more permissive. What are some commands from Scripture that you would categorize as prescriptive- instructions that are true for every believer?

What are some commands from Scripture that you would categorize as permissive?

What are some specific issues about which you have made decisions according to God's permissive will? These are things that are right for you but may not be right for others.

Can you think of times when you have felt shamed or judged by another believer for your choices?

Remember that understanding the different in God's prescriptive and permissive will is critical as we interact as a community of believers. Let's choose love over shame every time an incident involving God's permissive will is involved. Take a few moments to consider where you need to realign with God's grace toward others who think differently than you.

Ask God to give you a discerning mind between God's prescriptive will and God's permissive will this week.

Prescriptive will: the same for all people.

Permissive will: not the same for all people.

In what ways have you experienced information overload?

Read 1 Corinthians 8:1-8. What does Paul say a potential pitfall of knowledge can be? (v. 1)

How is love superior to knowledge? (v. 1)

After reading verses 1-3, how would you summarize the content of the verses to a friend?

We, too, live in a culture where knowledge is considered power. How do these verses encourage or convict you personally?

While the Corinthians in this chapter were unsure about eating meat that was sacrificed to idols, what comes to mind when you think of areas where we disagree about how to apply our freedom in Christ? Think about a choice or decision that might be acceptable for one person but considered to be sin for another person in light of his or her past.

How do you discern between Biblical truth that should not be compromised and issues of conscience?

Think of an issue of conscience where you disagree with another believer. How do your thoughts, words, and actions related to this issue reflect love?

Do you ever find yourself making puffed up, smug remarks? Do you look down on those who disagree with you as inferior to your views? If you answered yes to either question, what are some ways that you can disagree better?

How have you seen relationships among believers affected over a gray area or conscience issue?

Continue to read 1 Corinthians this week and ask God to use Scripture to make you more and more into the image and likeness of God's son Jesus Christ. I will see you next week!

www.fpcfd.org/1cor

Don't forget our gathering in the commons of First Presbyterian Church on Sunday evenings October 25th, and November 8th from 6:30-8:00pm. Masks strongly encouraged.