

I Need a Spiritual Family

“A Spiritual Family Deals with Sexual Immorality”

1 Corinthians 5-6 – May 18, 2014

Our Sermon Series

I Need a Spiritual Family		
<i>A Study of the Book of First Corinthians</i>		
Date	Message Title	Bible Text
April 6	A Spiritual Family Resolves Conflict	1 Corinthians 1:1-17
April 13	A Spiritual Family Embraces the Cross	1 Corinthians 1:18-31
April 27	A Spiritual Family Embraces the Spirit	1 Corinthians 2:1-3:4
May 4	A Spiritual Family Pursues Rewards Together	1 Corinthians 3:5-4:21
May 18	A Spiritual Family Deals with Sexual Immorality PG-13	1 Corinthians 5:1-13; 6:9-20
May 25	A Spiritual Family Does Not Sue Each Other	1 Corinthians 6:1-8
June 1	A Spiritual Family Embraces Marriage & Singleness	1 Corinthians 7:1-40
June 8	A Spiritual Family Builds Each Other Up	1 Corinthians 8:1-11:1
June 15	A Spiritual Family Worships Together	1 Corinthians 11:2-34
June 22	A Spiritual Family Uses Their Spiritual Gifts	1 Corinthians 12:1-14:40
May 11	A Spiritual Family Loves Each Other (Mother’s Day)	1 Corinthians 13:1-13
April 19/20	A Spiritual Family Believes in Heaven (Easter)	1 Corinthians 15:1-58
June 29	A Spiritual Family Gives	1 Corinthians 16:1-24

To get sermon-based small group discussion questions developed by Life Way specifically for these messages, please contact Christi Jeffries at cjeffries@whatisgrace.org

Straight Talk about Sexual Immorality (1 Corinthians 5-6)

1. Sexual immorality is a **sin** (6:9-10)

- A list of sins in 1 Corinthians 6:9-10

ESV Word	Greek	Definition
Sexually immoral	<i>pornos</i>	Fornicator (broad term – see specifics below)
Idolaters	<i>eidololatrias</i>	Idolater; image worshipper; one who serves idols
Adulterers	<i>moichos</i>	Adulterer
Homosexuality	<i>arsenokoites</i>	Homosexual; male who has sexual relations with a male
Thieves	<i>kleptes</i>	A stealer; thief
Greedy	<i>pleonektes</i>	Covetous; desiring more; seeking thru all means
Drunkards	<i>methusos</i>	Drunkard
Revilers	<i>loidoros</i>	One who uses abusive language; insulter
Swindlers	<i>harpax</i>	Extortion; robber; steals by force

- Sexual sin is having sex (physically or in your brain) with anyone other than the person of the opposite gender that you are married to (Ex 20:14; Lev 18; Matt 5:27-28; 1 Corinth 6:9-20; Eph 5:3; 1 Thess. 4:3-5; 2 Tim 2:20-22).

Adultery – sex with a married person – not your spouse	Topless clubs; strip clubs
Fornication – sex with any one you are not married to	Practicing homosexuality
Petting – touching someone’s private parts whom you are not married to	Pornographic internet, pictures, or movies
Oral sex with someone you are not married to	Phone sex (900 numbers)
Voyeurism – watching someone else have sex	Cell phone pornography

2. Sexual immorality is not the **unforgiveable sin** nor is it the unescapable prison. God can and will forgive and deliver by His Spirit any who repent of their sin and call on the name of Jesus Christ (6:11)

- There is great hope in this verse for any who struggle with the sins of vv.9-10. You can have victory over these sins! The Corinthians did!
- David Prior: “There are few more exciting and energizing statements in the New Testament than this little phrase, ‘and such were some of you.’ We have only to recall the moral cess-pit of first-century Corinth to appreciate the wonder of Paul’s assertion. No power on earth could have produced such a transformation in this motley collection of Christians, to whom he is so deeply devoted that he explicitly addresses them as ‘brethren’ twenty times in this single epistle. Every single individual rescued from the tentacles of rampant vice was a glorious trophy of divine grace. Never had Paul been more convinced that God is able to save to the uttermost all who come to Him through Jesus.”

3. The Bible gives **extra attention** to sexual immorality because of its special nature (6:12-20)

- Your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, and you are only meant to be joined with Him. Biblical marriage is a picture of this.
- Application: Sexual sins join you with another human being. One of the steps to freedom in Christ is breaking any soul ties from your past.
- Application: Flee sexual immorality! (6:18; Genesis 39:6-12)
- Application: Christian liberty is limited by 4 questions: (1) Is it helpful? [6:12a]; (2) Will it enslave? [6:12b]; (3) Does it cause my brother to stumble? [8:9-13]; (4) Does it glorify God? [6:20; 10:31].

4. Unrepentant, continual sin in the life of a believer is to be **disciplined by the church** (5:1-13)

- The motive of this discipline is love with a view to restoration (5:5).
- The steps of church discipline are outlined in Matthew 18:15-17: (1) private confrontation; (2) confrontation with another; (3) confrontation by the church; (4) remove from church membership.
- This only applies to believers within the church (members). We are to treat unbelievers differently leaving the judgment to God (5:9-12)

Straight Talk about Homosexuality: The church is called to deal with the issue of homosexuality with both grace and truth (John 1:14,17)

1. Truth: The practice of homosexuality is a **sin**.

- **Leviticus 18:22** – *Do not lie with a man as one lies with a woman, that is detestable.* (this is a moral law reinforced in the new covenant)
- **Leviticus 20:13** – *If a man lies with a man as one lies with a woman, both of them have done what is detestable. They must be put to death; their blood will be on their own heads.* (The penalty here of capital punishment is part of the constitution of the Jewish people and is not reiterated in the new covenant.)

- **Genesis 19** – Sodom and Gomorrah are destroyed for their perversion
- **Jude 7** – *In a similar way, Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding towns gave themselves up to sexual immorality and perversion.*
- **Romans 1:26-27,32** – *Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural relations for unnatural ones. In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed indecent acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their perversion.... Although they know God’s righteous decree that those who do such things deserve death, they not only continue to do these very things but also approve of those who practice them.*
- **1 Timothy 1:9-11** – *We also know that law is made not for the righteous but for lawbreakers and rebels, the ungodly and sinful, the ungodly and irreligious; for those who kill their fathers or mothers, for murderers, for adulterers and perverts (arsenokoitai), for slave traders and liars and perjurers – and whatever else is contrary to sound doctrine that conforms to the glorious gospel of the blessed God, which He entrusted to me.*
- **1 Corinthians 6:9-11**

2. **Grace:** The practice of homosexuality is not the unforgiveable sin. Jesus **can** and **will** forgive all who call upon His name.

- **1 John 1:9** – *If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.*
- **Colossians 2:13** – *When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your sinful nature, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins.*
- **Acts 2:38** – *Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."*
- **Application:** There is no sin that you have committed that is so bad that God cannot and will not forgive it through Jesus Christ. Call on His name:

Lord Jesus, I repent of my sin and turn to You. I believe that You died on the cross and rose from the dead for all of my sins. Thank You! I receive You. I receive Your complete forgiveness of all of my sins and Your free gift of eternal life. Come into my life and make me into the person that You want me to be.

3. **Grace:** Grace Fellowship wants and **welcomes** homosexuals to attend this church.

- We sincerely want homosexuals to come to this church!!!
- Grace Fellowship is not anti-gay. We are not anti-anyone! We love all people! The mat at our front door says "Welcome" to everyone!

4. **Grace and Truth:** Come as you are... but don't stay as you are.

- This is the motto for ALL of us.
- For some: God is going to bring freedom and healing (1 Corinth 6:11).
- For some: Your same gender attraction could be a "thorn in the flesh" (2 Corinthians 12:7-10) that you will wrestle with your whole earthly life. We want to join with you in helping you live a God-honoring life of

celibacy in singleness. God calls us all to holiness regardless of our categories of propensities to sin.

- **Application:** An area of my life where I sense God calling me to become more and more like Jesus (Romans 8:29) is... Spirit of Christ, fill me and make me more like You!

5. **Truth:** In love, we will exercise certain healthy **boundaries:**

- Church membership is reserved for those who repent of their sin, turn away from their old lifestyle, and turn to Christ.
- We will exercise church discipline on any church member who is living in an unrepentant, continual lifestyle of sin.
- Church leadership is reserved for members who are living an above reproach life (1 Timothy 3).
- Teaching children and youth is reserved only for those who sincerely take the vows of "Safe Sanctuary."

Youth & Children's Ministry Volunteer Agreement – By God's grace and power...
 _____ Seek to grow in my personal relationship with Jesus Christ so that I may be a godly influence on children.
 _____ Support the 7 conviction level beliefs of GFUMC: The authority of Scripture; one Triune God, Deity of Christ, substitutionary atonement, resurrection of Christ, Second Coming, and salvation by grace through faith.
 _____ Refrain from sexual immorality (1 Thessalonians 4:3-5). If I am married, I will be faithful to my spouse (exodus 20:14). If I am single, I will remain celibate in my singleness. I will not engage in homosexual practice (1 Corinthians 6:9-11).
 _____ Refrain from the use of illegal drugs.
 _____ Maintain to the best of my ability an "above reproach" lifestyle.
 _____ Pray regularly for students and/or other volunteers in my ministry area.
 _____ Faithfully serve in the area of ministry that I have volunteered for.
 _____ Never be alone with a student in such a way that other people cannot see us.
 _____ Keep my one-year commitment to the best of my ability. If for some reason I cannot complete my commitment, I will make every effort to find someone to take my place.

6. **Truth:** An exhortation to the church.

- Stop coming across as **gay-haters!**
- Let's be the Good Samaritan – not the Levite or the priest (Lk 10:29-37).
- Let's be the repentant tax collector not the prideful Pharisee (Lk 18:9-14).
- Let's be like the father rather than the older brother (Luke 15:11-32).
- Let's be more and more like Jesus who was called a "friend of sinners" (Matthew 11:19), who ate with tax collectors and sinners, and who saw their lives change as He loved on them (Luke 19:1-10; John 8:1-11).

Straight Talk about Talking to Your Kids about Sex

- "God's Design for Sex" series:
 - Book 1: "The Story of Me" by Stan/Brenda Jones (ages 3-5)
 - Book 2: "Before I Was Born" by Carolyn Nystrom (ages 5-8)
 - Book 3: "What's the Big Deal? Why God Cares about Sex" by S/B Jones (ages 8-11)
 - Book 4: "Facing the Facts: The Truth About Sex and You" by S/B Jones (ages 11-14)
- "Passport 2 Purity" by Dennis/Barbara Rainey (recommend summer before 6th grade)