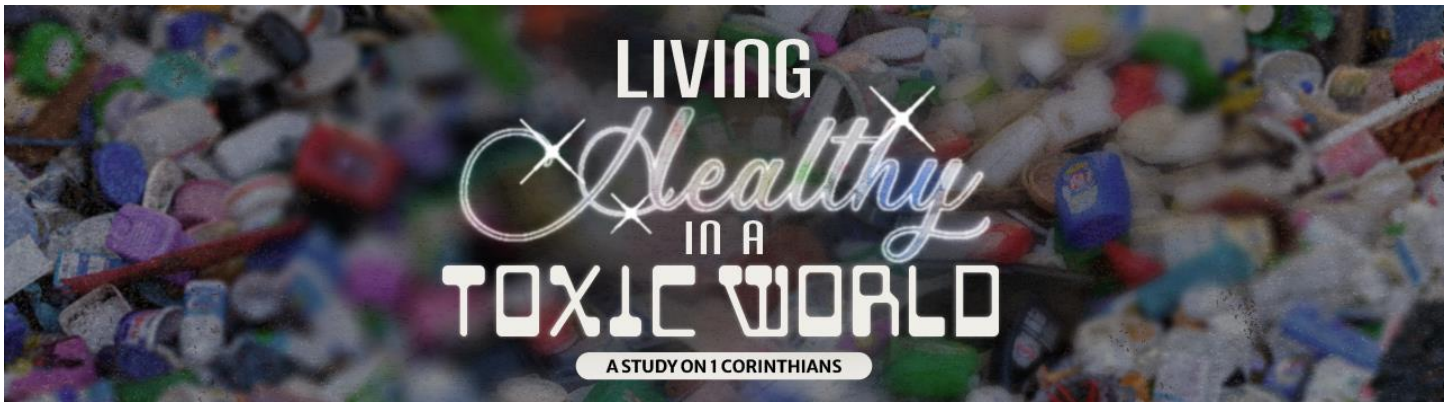




STUDY TOOLS

Sunday, August 16, 2026

Teaching: *Run!!!*

Key Scripture: 1 Corinthians 6:12–20

5-DAY READING PLAN WITH QUESTIONS:

Monday: 1 Corinthians 9:1–12

Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 9:13–18

Wednesday: 1 Corinthians 9:19–27

Thursday: 1 Corinthians 10:1–13

Friday: 1 Corinthians 10:14–22

1. What does this passage tell you about God?
2. What does this passage tell you about people?
3. If this is God's Word (The Bible), what do I need to do?
4. What is your takeaway?
5. Who would you tell?

LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION:

In 1 Corinthians 6:12–20, Paul continues to address the Corinthians' problem with sexual sin. They believed that because they were free in Christ, they were allowed to do whatever they wanted, but Paul reminds them that not everything is beneficial and that we must not allow anything to master us. Our freedom is not found in doing whatever we want; true freedom is having the power to say no. Paul then reminds us that our bodies were created for the Lord, our bodies belong to Him, and the Spirit unites us to the body of Christ. That is why Paul's command is so strong—"Run from sexual sin!" We aren't called to negotiate with temptation, test our strength, or see how close we can get—we are called to flee. But this message is not one of condemnation. Paul reminds the Corinthians that though some of them had lived in sexual brokenness, they had been cleansed, made holy, and made right with God through Jesus. Because we belong to Christ and our bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, we're called to honor God with our bodies. The closer you get to sexual sin, the farther you drift from God.

Before we talk about sexual sin, we need to remember the hope of the gospel—our past does not have the final word. Paul says, "Some of you were once like that. But you were cleansed..." (1 Corinthians 6:11). We can take sin seriously without living under shame. In Christ, there is forgiveness, cleansing, restoration, and victory. We are not defined by what we have done—we are defined by whose we are.

CEDAR VALLEY

Memorizing Scripture provides spiritual strength, guides your daily life, and equips you for ministry in everyday moments. For the rest of the year, we're switching things up! Each week, we encourage **you** to choose one verse from the weekly Key Scripture that stands out to you and commit it to memory. Before you choose your verse, ask God to reveal the one you most need to hide in your heart. Over time, you'll be amazed at how God brings that verse to mind—whether to strengthen and encourage you or to help you encourage someone else.

Questions:

Icebreaker: What's one thing you're learning to do differently right now?

1. Read 1 Corinthians 6:12-20 together as a group. How would you put verse 12 in your own words? What do you think Christian freedom actually means?
2. In 6:13-14, the Corinthians seemed to believe that physical desires should simply be satisfied because they are natural. How does Paul challenge that way of thinking? What does he say about the purpose of our bodies?
3. 6:15-17 expands on the importance of the body and how we are joined to the Lord. What do these verses tell us about our identity and our relationship with Jesus?
4. Why do you think Paul says, "Run from sexual sin" in 6:18, rather than simply "resist" or "manage" it? What does the command to run communicate about the seriousness of sexual temptation?
5. Reread 6:18-20. What do these verses reveal about God's heart and design for us? (See Digging Deeper for more)
6. What is one area of your life where you may need to ask, "*Is this mastering me?*" What would it look like to surrender that area more fully to Jesus?
7. Is there a practical step you need to take to flee from something that is pulling you away from God?

DIGGING DEEPER

Question 5—1 Corinthians 6:19 *"Don't you realize that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit"*

The New Testament uses several metaphors for the Church – family, flock, city/kingdom, body, and temple. In 1 Corinthians 3, Paul introduces the idea of the people of God as God's temple. The language he uses is plural, so he is not talking about them as individuals; he is talking about the Church as a whole being God's temple. Both Jewish and Greek audiences would have understood this reference because Greek converts to Christianity also came from religions that worshiped in temples. The Greek word Paul uses for temple (*naos*) refers to the actual sanctuary, the place where the deity dwelled. For Paul, this imagery reflects what the Old Testament teaches about the people of God. Although they are never specifically called "God's temple," they are the people God chose to "dwell" with in the tabernacle and the temple.

In 1 Corinthians 6:18–20, Paul takes this imagery of the Church as God's temple and applies it to the individual Christian. In chapter 3, the Church (plural), through the Spirit, is God's temple. In chapter 6, Paul says the individual believer's body is the Spirit's temple. The place of the Spirit's dwelling is now in the believer's individual body and life. Just as the temple in Jerusalem "housed" the presence of God, the Spirit of God is "housed" in the believer's body. This is an amazing affirmation of the goodness of the human body. Paul will go into more detail about this when he talks about the resurrection of the body in chapter 15. It appears the Corinthian people did not think that what they did with their bodies mattered for their salvation, but Paul insists their bodies belong to the Lord and immorality is sin against the body where the Spirit dwells.

—taken from Gordon Fee's and I. Howard Marshall's commentaries on *1 Corinthians*. (Fee, Gordon, *NICNT The First Epistle to the Corinthians*. Eerdmans, Grand Rapids, 1987 and Marshall, I. Howard. *Exploring the New Testament Vol 2*. IVP, Downers Grove, 2002.)