

The Corinthian Letters, Lesson 24, 1st Corinthians 6:18-20, Touchy Subject, Part 2

- ✎ The last time we were together, we looked at the touchy subject of immorality. Paul gave us numerous reasons to flee it:
- 1) The body was created for the Lord and not for sex.
 - 2) As believers, we involve Jesus in whatever we are involved in.
 - 3) Sex is the one-flesh event, bodies get married when they have sex. Sex is never casual and is far more than just physical in nature.
 - 4) Immorality is a sin that is uniquely destructive to the body. You would have to do a lot of drugs and alcohol to do damage to your body, but immorality does damage the first time its indulged in.
 - 5) Immorality ignores the cost of our redemption. We were bought with a very high price; not so that we could do whatever we want, but so that we could be His.
 - 6) Immorality fails to glorify God. We don't have another instrument through which to glorify God; our bodies are the single instrument for that. When we commit immorality, we are taking a personal instrument of God's that He uses for His glory, and we use it to stir a cesspool of sin.
-

1. These are logical and theological reasons to flee immorality.

- ✓ But logic and theology don't often factor in heavily when we are tempted sexually, there tends to be much more in the area of hormones and emotions. We are going to take a look at two individuals over the next two studies and how they handled sexual temptation, one fell and one who fled. This week are going take a look at the one who fled, Joseph of the Old Testament. A good title of this study would be "Flee while you can." It is such an encouraging study because it shows us that we can stand up to temptation with God's help and make it through.

2. We are going to consider four factors about Joseph as well as discover Joseph's secret for overcoming sexual temptation.

- ✓ Genesis 39, in the New Living translation... Factor #1, Joseph's past was a problem, he was raised in a very dysfunctional family. Were you raised in a dysfunctional family?, (All are to a greater or lesser degree). If so, that's a problem. We live in a victim culture and our sinful tendency is to say that someone else is to blame for our sin.

3. Joseph was the poster child of dysfunction with his family dynamic:

- ✓ Jacob, his father, was raised in a family where the two parents played favorites and where he stole his brother's birthright with the help of his own mother. Jacob was married to 4 different women at the same time, two of which were sisters; one he loved with great favoritism and the other he just tolerated. Jacob's name means "con-artist" and that was how he lived gaining most of his wealth through cons of some sort. Joseph's oldest brother, Reuben, slept with one of their father's wives. His next two oldest brothers, Simeon, and Levi murdered all the men in a town because one man in that town raped their sister. Judah, the fourth oldest, had children by his daughter-in-law. Joseph's ten older brothers were all in on him being sold into slavery. Joseph's past was problem and made his temptation all the more powerful. From a worldly reasoning point of view, he had a good reason to give in to Potiphar's wife. Joseph should have been angry and vulnerable in our way of thinking. Not only was Joseph vulnerable but the temptation was persistent. She was almost definitely good looking as well. He was also no mummy (not yet!) he was a 20 something year old male with all his red blood cells. The situation was a passionate one, but Joseph's convictions were more passionate, and this is the key.
-
-
-