

CHAPTER 32.3  
**My People**  
*in this* **City**

“SEXUAL PURITY”  
1 Corinthians 5-6  
January 28, 2018

Keep God’s temple pure. The sanctuary of the Holy Spirit must not be soiled.

- I. Preserve and Protect Sexual Purity within the Church (5:1-13)
    - A. Immorality should break the heart of the whole church. (1-2)
    - B. Remove the unrepentant sinner. (2b – 5)  
Purpose:
      1. Destruction of the flesh (the sinful orientation)  
Ultimate salvation of the soul
      2. Protection of the Body of Believers (6-8)

Celebrate Jesus’ provision through lives of purity and truth. (8)  
Root out infectious, deceitful evil.
    - C. The Church is responsible to maintain the purity of the temple of God. (9-13)
  - II. Resolve disputes internally. (6:1-8)
  - III. Use your body to glorify God! (6:9-20)
    - A. Your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit. (19-20)
      1. Keep the Spirit’s residence clean!
      2. Not everyone is part of His kingdom. (9-10)
      3. Kingdom citizens (11-12)
        - a. The path to citizenship (11)
        - b. Kingdom behavior: liberty is not libertinism! (12)
    - B. Your body is made for God and eternity. (13-17)
      1. Your body is meant to bring God glory. (13)
      2. Your body is meant for heaven. (14)
      3. Your body belongs to Christ. (15-17, 19b-20a)
- Pursue purity. Flee sexual immorality. (18)

**How does this apply to me?**

## **NEXT WEEK**

“MARRIAGE QUESTIONS”  
1 Corinthians 7

### **Passage Overview:**

Having addressed the importance of sexual purity in chapters 5-6, the Spirit of God leads Paul to address the sanctity of marriage within the Christian community. At the same time, the Spirit repeatedly emphasizes the valued role of singleness within the church.

Coming out of a culture that valued sexual freedom and personal pleasure, the young believers in Corinth struggled with the biblical position of the sanctity of marriage. Personal preferences and changing emotional attractions, or lack of the feeling of being in love, must all be brought into submission to God’s plan for marriage. God’s plan for permanence in marriage flew in the face of culture and emotions. Yet God’s will is always best. The Spirit called on believing couples not to separate or divorce. If divorce did occur, they should remain unmarried or else be reconciled to their spouse.

Since all of the Corinthian believers were first generation believers, some of them had come to faith while their spouse remained outside of the faith. Paul addressed this issue as well, treasuring the value of unity, which could lead the unbeliever to Christ, while acknowledging the church’s inability to hold unbelievers to the standards of life in Christ.

Because of the increasing persecution which believers were facing in the empire, Paul encouraged those who were not yet married and who could control their desires, to consider remaining single for the cause of Christ. Singles have a significantly increased capacity to focus their attention on the service of Christ because they don’t carry the same responsibility for another that married individuals do.

We too live in a culture that has standards and norms for marriage that are in opposition to biblical principles. Will we stand clearly in God’s plan, for God’s glory and our good?

**Reading for Next Week: 1 Corinthians 7**