

[MESSAGE NOTES]

True North: Week 8 — *Flee!* (1 Corinthians 6:9-22)

Pastoral Note: Today, we return to 1 Corinthians and are beginning a several-week span that will be on the topics of sexuality, marriage, singleness, divorce, and other similar topics. We think that this could be an opportunity for older children to engage with important topics of our day, but encourage discernment when bringing younger children to hear the messages during these next few weeks.

Message Notes:

[QUICK REVIEW]

Looking at your notes from this week's message, was there anything you heard for the first time or something that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

[MY STORY]

There are things that we encounter in life that have immense potential for both good or evil. Things that have a large upside or downside. Take ice cream for example... amazing! But you eat too much and you'll regret it. ***What are some of the greatest blessings out there that also have the potential for great harm?***

[DIGGING DEEPER]

This week we joined Paul in his rebuke and challenge to the Corinthian church in the arena of sexual immorality. The book of James reminds us that *every good and perfect gift comes from God* and that includes our God-given sexuality. We were created in the image of God, including our sexuality, and God called us *very good*. However, what God created Good the Enemy has sought to distort and destroy throughout the rest of history, and the realm of sexuality has often seemingly been an area of triumph for the Evil One over the centuries.

Take a few minutes and dive into the text for the week one more time. **Read 1 Corinthians 6:12-20 in at least two different translations and then answer these questions:**

- 1) *What do these verses tell us about the Corinthians and about human nature in general?*
- 2) *What do these verses tell us about God? About his hopes and expectations for the Corinthians? What do they tell us about God's desires for us regarding sexuality?*
- 3) *Why is sexuality and sexual immorality seem to be so important to both Paul and to God?*

While it is easy to take this passage and point to the temptations of the surrounding culture, God cares more about the holiness and state of His Church. While the arena of sexuality has often brought about some of the greatest brokenness, God specializes in bringing beauty and healing even out of the darkest and ugliest parts of our stories. **Take some time and reflect on your own sexual brokenness—past or present. Confess any sins before God, thank him for any healing you have experienced, and, if prompted, share appropriately with a trusted friend, counselor, or community.**

One of the questions that we regularly encourage people at FIRST to ask is, ***who are you becoming?*** This is a question that is at the core of our formation into Christlikeness, of our sanctification, and of our maturity as followers of Jesus. One of the most common callings for God's family and community, whether Old Testament or New, is a call to holiness—to be set apart for the work of God. **Read the following Scriptures about holiness:**

Leviticus 19:2

1 Peter 1:16

Leviticus 20:7

1 Peter 2:9

A key part of addressing sexual brokenness and fleeing sexual immorality is not just saying no to the wrong things but saying yes to the things of God—to set ourselves apart and to consecrate ourselves to God. ***How can you intentionally set yourself apart for God this week?***

[WEEKLY READINGS]

Studies say that someone who reads their Bible 4 times or more a week improves their joy, happiness, contentment, and overall approval of their life. (*1 Tim. 4:8-10,16; 2 Tim. 3:16-17*). As a church, we believe that! Below are 4 passages of Scripture this week to dive into to pull deeper on our weekend's message.

1 Corinthians 6

Matthew 5

Romans 1

Galatians 5