**1 Corinthians 6:12-20**

I. Background

A. Paul was a Jewish follower of Christ

B. Corinth was an important strategic city (very similar to Orange County)

1. On a harbor

2. Very wealthy

3. Highly sexualized culture

C. Temple prostitution

A part of worshipping the Greek God, Aphrodite, involved going to a local temple and sleeping with a temple prostitute as an act of worship

II. We are a temple

A. In Greek Culture the body was thought to be either unimportant or inherently evil

B. But Paul argues that our bodies are a Temple

1. The Jerusalem Temple was a place set aside for worship

2. The Bible affirms that our bodies are both physical and sexual

III. What’s put in the temple matters

A. Historical background

During the inter-testamental period, Antiochus Epiphanes stormed into the temple and defiled it by raising a statue to Zeus and slaughtering a pig on the altar

B. In our own lives what is put in the temple matters

1. We are what we eat/consume

2. As we begin to put the right things in our temple, we develop new habits and desires as we are sanctified

3. The Greek word translated “sexual immorality” is “pornea” from which we get our word “porn.’

a. Pornography is pervasive and it changes how we think about the world and ourselves

b. The images we consume change how we think

c. That’s why Paul calls us to transform and renew our minds (Ro 12:1-2)

IV. A sanctified temple glorifies God

A. As individuals

B. As a group: what we do individually matters to the entire body

C. We need to prepare our minds for action

D. 2 Chronicles 7:1ff:

1. When Solomon dedicated the temple, fire came down from heaven and the glory of the Lord filled the temple

2. Similarly, we should pray that God would fill us and be glorified in our lives so that we become beacons to a dark world

V. Action Steps: P.U.R.E Hope

A. Pray: cultivate intimacy with God

B. Understand: understand God’s Word, ourselves, the adversary, and the culture

C. Resolve: persevere in repentance and commitment

D. Engage: love others in word and deed

1 John 3:3: It is Christ who makes us pure

**Discussion Questions**

1. Read 1 Corinthians 6:12-19 slowly together. What part of that passage strikes you most today, and why?

2. In Greek culture and philosophy, the body was often thought to be either unimportant or inherently evil (as opposed to the spirit which was important and good). How has this way of thinking crept into Christian culture as you experience it? How has this thinking crept into your own view of life?

3. On Sunday we talked about our bodies as being a temple for the Lord. When you consider the statement made on Sunday, “we are what we consume,” where are you convicted regarding what you allow to go into your temple (your body, heart, or mind)?

4. How did your parents engage with you in the conversation about sex and pursuing sexual purity? In what ways would you like to replicate their approach, and in what ways would you like to do things differently with your own kids or grandkids?

5. As you consider the four point action step mentioned on Sunday (PURE = pray, understand, resolve, and engage) where in that process do you want to focus more in the coming weeks especially as it relates to pursuing sexual purity in your life?