



# redeemed

bible in 3 & 1 Corinthians 5-7

SCPC term 2 2008

## sunday 1st june 2008

### study 4 DARE TO DISCIPLINE 1 Corinthians 5

KEY VERSE FOR SERIES: "...you are not your own; you were bought at a price..." 1 Corinthians 6:19-20

Thanks for all the feedback regarding the Bible Overview series. It's always exciting to see the 'big picture' of the Bible isn't it? And how it all wonderfully fits together around God's great action in sending his son Jesus to die for us and then raising him to life. What a fantastic hope we have in the new creation Jesus has won for us. It's certainly motivated me personally to read the Bible more, applying it to how I live and think, and I hope it's had that effect for you. Why not look with your group at the '40 ways to make God's Word more central to your life' flyer recently sent out?

As we return to 1 Corinthians you'll spot some immediate links with the key themes from the Bible Overview series, especially 1 Cor 5:7, 'for Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed'. Here is the great reason to turn from all sin—Jesus' died to pay for it. We hardly honour Jesus' death by still walking in the sin he died for. Jesus has redeemed us from slavery to sin, whether sexual sin (as in this chapter) or whatever sin. We are his slaves now—which is perfect freedom—serving the one who made us and has redeemed us. The challenge of the next few chapters in 1 Corinthians is how to use our freedom for the service of others. It is sin that defines freedom as serving ourselves. This passage presents a massive challenge to our individualism.

#### some notes on questions

Q1. The details are sketchy exactly what's going on. The construction 'father's wife' probably doesn't mean this man's mother, but possibly a step-mother. We don't know if the father is still alive or who involved is in the church—it is only the 'man' singled out. Whatever is going on it is not good, even by worldly standards! If we've observed before that they are more 'Corinth in the church' than 'the church in Corinth' (1:2), at this point they're even worse than that, says Paul.

Q2. Worse still, they are possibly boasting about such use of freedom (!)—as wrong an understanding of Christian freedom as you can have. Paul might also have in mind the pathetic fact that the Corinthians are all so proud and boastful about how spiritual they are—and yet have failed to see that spirituality involves not being complacent about sin in our Christian fellowship.

Q3. Right here we have to confront the fact that Paul has a more serious view about church and church attendance than we have. So high is his view of the church gathering, that to be excluded from it is to be put in Satan's territory. We think it's just having the 'week off'!

Q4. We see in these verses that Paul's goal, like a loving father disciplining a child (see 3:14-15, 21) is restoration of the man. The hope is in excluding him from fellowship he will see the seriousness of his sin and repent. Better tough love now that leads to repentance, than fake 'accepting' love that leads to his eternal damnation.

Q5. See the big idea of the study—we so often get this the wrong way around!

Q6-9. Whatever you don't cover here—be sure to cover Q6 which takes you to the cross (Passover lamb) as the centre of the passage and our reason for turning from sin.

**digging deeper:** notice the similarity with 'sincerity and truth' at the end of 1 Cor 5:8. Yet again we see that the goal of Christ's sacrifice for us is not simply our individual salvation, but to gather a saved people who love each other in the same sacrificial way. When we downplay the importance of church in our understanding of the gospel, we have not understood the gospel.

small group bible study leaders' notes