



# redeemed

bible in 3 & 1 Corinthians 5-7

SCPC term 2 2008

## sunday 15th june 2008

### study 6 REDEEMED BODIES 1 Corinthians 6:12-20

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

We've seen it over and over in 1 Corinthians, they're meant to be "the church in Corinth" (1:2) but unfortunately there's much too much "Corinth in the church". Last week we saw this in the law court realm, as they followed the litigious ways of the world. This week we see it in the sexual realm, as they follow the immoral ways of the world. For people who are claiming to be *spiritual*, they seem to have grasped virtually none of the basics of Christian living that represent true spirituality. For people who are claiming to have *special knowledge*, Paul exclaims 10 times in chapters 5-9 (3 times in this short passage), "do you not know?!". For people who love talking about their *freedom* in Christ (our starting point in verse 12 is their slogan "everything is permissible for me"), they seem to have no notion of what Jesus has freed them from let alone what he has freed them for. Paul has just reminded them in verses 9-11 that they've been freed from sin: "that is what some of you were". Unfortunately, what they were is what they still ARE! And they're wrong notion of Christian freedom is making them slaves of sin all over again, rather than servants of Jesus. Especially, they are slaves to sexual sin: they're so called freedom is actually slavery—sexual appetite is ruling their actions, not Jesus. While we saw an extreme case in ch5, it seems that other forms of sexual immorality are not only present but celebrated by the Corinthians. Again we will see that the challenge Paul issues to them is totally relevant to us and the temptations we all face.

#### some notes on questions

Q1. The word "mastered" (i.e. Master, Lord) is very significant in Paul's comeback. They are claiming 'freedom'. Paul is arguing that their notion of freedom is slavery—mastered by sin rather than Jesus who redeemed them from slavery (verse 20). When you put "me" at the centre (literally their slogan reads, "everything for me is permissible"... that's sin! True Christian freedom is found in the true master—serving Jesus, not our sinful desires.

Q2. The Corinthians (probably following Greek philosophy) seem to have a view that we become mere 'spirits' at death. Jesus' resurrection shows that we will have bodies in the new creation. It's one of many reasons Paul gives to show that bodies matter—and spirituality is everything to do with what you do with your body.

Q3. If your body doesn't matter, why did the Holy Spirit bother taking up residence inside it?! It's a sobering thing that Jesus is right there with us when we sin sexually (or whatever other sin). Also, if you recall what we saw in the 3 week Bible overview, all Christians are in a real sense *betrothed* to Jesus—we are his bride and we will be united to him for all eternity. So sexual sin is a vivid betrayal of our Lord in that light.

Q4. It's worth remembering that most of the NT references to the 'temple' are corporate/together (i.e. yous) rather than individual. And remember also that, even in this individual application, Paul has been arguing that the sin of one affects all of us in some way (see 5:6).

Q5. These are our key verses for the term and remind us that Paul is talking about a relationship more than rules. The issue isn't just right and wrong but who our true master is. Jesus bought us with the price of his own blood to free us from slavery. We are his!

Q6-9. This will/should be a confronting passage for people in your group. There may be greater need than usual to follow up individuals and to pursue matters one-to-one. Be ready for that!

**digging deeper:** it may be a useful exercise to recall all that we learnt in Romans... that this great transformation of our lives in real ways is the only right response to God's mercy in Jesus.

small group bible study leaders' notes