



MIND
session page

From Solo to Symphony

1 Corinthians 6:12-20 | Session 16.02

Before the Session

Facilitator: In advance of the session

- Review today's scripture text and the session activities to help better facilitate the discussion.
- Have the Bible Background Video ready to view.
- Encourage your group to listen to the Faithelement podcast ahead of the next session (Share the link via email or social media).

Context

Begin by asking:

- If you could change any one aspect of your body, what would it be and why?
- If you could change an aspect of someone else's body, what would you choose and why?
- What do you think the answers to those questions might be if asked outside of this group and why?
- Why do you think people place such value on certain physical attributes as opposed to others?
- In what ways does our attitude toward the physical self reflect our faith?

Content

Read 1 Corinthians 6:12-20, and watch the Bible Background Video before asking:

- Who do you think Paul is quoting in the first verse and why?
- Why would someone with enough influence in the Christian community to be quoted by Paul say something like, "Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food"?
- In what ways might someone apply such statements to the prostitution that was both widespread and legal in the first century, and given that it was a social norm, why did Paul have a problem with it?
- What do you think of the assertion that, "We struggle to be honest about the ways depression or an illness is affecting our bodies, but we are all too eager to chastise someone who doesn't live up to our moral standard in the bedroom."?
- What do you think Paul has in mind for people to do when he tells them to "glorify God in your body"?

Closure

Continue by asking:

- What is the difference between "morality" and "right living"?
- What kinds of things might people hold to be right or wrong, even though our legal system might not support them, and why do we hold to such things?
- In what ways might someone's failure to properly honor God through their body affect their faith, or the faith of their community?
- What is the community's role in helping people better honor God through the way they treat their or others' bodies?
- What can we do to offer grace and redemption to people who might have failed the theological ideal of "honoring the body"?

Close with prayer.

Writer: Jon Parks



CURRENT

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Context

Share "My life as a modern day slave" and ask the group:

- How does this video make you feel and why?
- Why do we still have slavery in our times?
- How do you imagine it would be to have someone else in control of your body and what you can do with it?
- When have you felt like you were in a position where you could not make your own decisions?
- At what points are you more likely to follow through on what you want to do or what a group expects you to do?

Content

Read [1 Corinthians 6:12-20](#), and watch the Bible Background Video before asking:

- Why would Paul take this approach in writing this letter?
- In what ways do the things Paul was quoting reflect the way people live in our times?
- What does it mean to be a “member of Christ” in the way Paul is writing here?
- How have these verses been misinterpreted and used by people in power, especially church leaders?
- What are some unhealthy expressions of community?
- What are examples of a Christian community about control opposed to a thriving Christian community?

Closure

Share the classic song [“Stand By Me”](#) and ask:

- Why do you think so many people see this song as an enduring classic?
- Who in your community most stands by you and how do you know?
- What does it mean to “live in community?”
- To what degree do you think the world looks at churches as examples of community and why?
- What is the difference between a community based on control versus a community based on thriving?
- How might your community look if you could accept that it can transcend physical presence and there is a connection among us?

As we go into 2024, pray that we can be a better community to those around us. And as we leave, remember to stand with each other.

Writer: Steve McClain



CONVERSATIONS

session page

From Solo to Symphony

1 Corinthians 6:12-20 | Session 16.02

Before the Session

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Context

Start by reminding the group about Daniel's introduction, focusing on the idea that our bodies are not made for us alone, but for God. Ask the group:

- Would you rather work in the kitchen alone or would you prefer help, and why?
- Where else in life would you prefer to be "in charge?"
- Other than sports, in what situations are you most likely to want to work as a team?
- While we often need to have others around in order to get things done, at what points does our needs for support or to go it alone, tend to surface and why?
- What are some things that you tend to do that might not be the best choices for other people, and what makes them so?
- To what degree is faith about surrendering control?

Content

Read 1 Corinthians 6:12-20, and watch the Bible Background Video before asking:

- Why is it important to take the public good into account when we make personal decisions?
- What Paul mean when he says that “everything is permissible, but not everything is good?”
- With which sorts of things were the Corinthians struggling to determine the best approach, and how does that compare with the “questionable” things that we might do today?
- Knowing that Paul frequently talks about balancing personal liberty with spiritual responsibility, how significant is it that he reminds his audience that they were “bought with a price?”
- Understanding that the Greek word that some Bibles interpret as “fornication” is meant to indicate the selling of oneself to gain an advantage (economic or otherwise) from someone else, rather than merely “prostitution,” what are some of the broader implications about our behavior that someone might draw from this text?

Closure

Listen to "If You're Ready" (Come Go With Me):

- What would it mean if we used "love as the only transportation" and chose to go the direction pointed to in the song?
- How do we recognize the difference between healthy and unhealthy understandings of community?
- What would our world be like if hatred wasn't tolerated?
- On what ways might taking the good of the community into account widen our understanding of community?
- If our church communities could truly be transformed, what could that mean about the transformation of the larger communities in which our churches live?

Close with a prayer.

Writer: Sara McClain



From Solo to Symphony

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Context

Share the "[Star Wars Toy Commercial](#)" and ask the group:

- How does this fake commercial make you feel and why?
- What leads to adults having an interest in toys, even though their use of them might differ dramatically from a child's?
- Why do we keep falling for marketing that convinces us that we need things and that only their product will fulfill that need?
- Why are food, sex and fear so often part of a successful marketing strategy?
- In what ways might such things influence us beyond their ability to get us to buy something, and what can we do about it?

Content

Read 1 Corinthians 6:12-20, and watch the Bible Background Video before asking:

- Who is saying “all things are lawful for me” and what is the point of such an argument?
- What is Paul’s response to those arguments?
- How can something be lawful, but not be beneficial?
- What do you think of Paul’s advice to the Corinthians?
- How do you feel about the high probability that prostitution in some form was commonly accepted by followers of Jesus (especially in Corinth)?
- What are some of the ramifications of our body not being our own?

Closure

Play the “Follow the Leader” movie clip from the animated classic, Peter Pan, and ask:

- How do we find the path to do what is beneficial and not just “lawful” or “permitted” and how do we know the difference?
- What, if anything can we do that might be beneficial, while being legally or morally dubious, and what does this tell us?
- At what point does the way we treat our bodies become a statement of our faith?
- If we can assume that God can be found in all the bodies we encounter in daily life, in what ways can our encounters with others best honor God?

Close in prayer.

Writer: Jon Self



From Solo to Symphony

1 Corinthians 6:12-20 | Session 16.02

Before the Session

Facilitator: In advance of the session

- Have the Bible Background Video ready to view.
- Review today's scripture text and the session activities to help better facilitate the discussion.
- Thoroughly review all the referenced resources for this session in advance.

Intro

Say, in the movie, *Courageous*, four police officers struggle with their faith and their roles as fathers. When tragedy strikes Adam's family, he makes a vow to be a better father and convinces his friends to do the same. They face challenges both personally and professionally as they strive to live up to their commitment.

Play the [Courageous video](#) and ask:

- What are your thoughts about the scene that you just watched?
- When you are judged, why does the good not outweigh the bad?
- While this scene concludes with one person sharing the Gospel with another, what do you think the man with a child needs to do to make things right?

Context

If you have a gathered group, blow up a bunch (at least twenty) of balloons for your group, writing on one half of the balloons some things that might help someone grow closer to God. On the other half of the balloons, write things that might pull someone away from following God. Form two teams with a line in the middle, then scatter all the balloons, both the good and bad, in the room and tell the group that the goal is to keep the good balloons on their side and to throw the bad balloons to the other side of the line. Start the game, counting down from two minutes, then stop and count the number of “good” balloons vs. “bad” balloons for each side. Declare a winner. Ask:

- How did you decide which balloons were bad and which ones were good?
- Which of the balloons were confusing and why?
- What are some of the items that I should have put on these balloons and why?
- In what ways would some of the items on the balloons be good or bad depending on where they were applied?
- What does the world say is good that the church might frown upon?
- How do you determine what to do when your faith and the world collide?

Content

Read 1 Corinthians 6:12-20, and watch the Bible Background Video before asking:

- What does the first verse mean?
- What may be permissible for a Christian, but not beneficial?
- People in Paul's day thought their sexuality had nothing to do with their spirituality. How do you feel about that and why?
- How is that message communicated in our world today?
- What do you think Paul means when he says, "You were bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body"?
- What does the church get right and wrong when it talks about how people use their bodies and why?

Closure

Form two teams, based on the gender of the participants, and tell the group: *We're going to spend a little time talking about how we understand ourselves in light of the things we've been discussing. For the next few minutes, I'd like you to discuss in your group the answers to some questions. Be as honest as you are comfortable being, but please do not participate if you don't think you can keep anything you hear said in confidence. This is supposed to be a "safe" conversation. After a few minutes, we're going to reform as a whole group and share some of what we learn from this experience.*

Give each group a copy of a handout with the following questions written on it:

- What do you think that members of the opposite sex most want from you and why?
- What would you most or least like people of the opposite sex to know about you and why?
- What kinds of pressures do people you know face to be sexually active?
- What advice would you give to someone struggling with such things?
- If someone was to ask you how your relationship with God affects the way you see yourself, what would you say?

Closure (cont'd)

Encourage teams to pay attention to their own discussion and not to the other team. After a few minutes, or when both teams appear to have finished their discussion, regather everyone into one group and ask:

- Without giving any specifics, what did you learn from sharing your answers to these questions?
- What is the best way that you can honor God through the way you treat people physically?
- How could you show grace to those who have given in to doing things that don't honor God?
- If you wanted to help someone value themselves as much as God does, what might you tell them?

Close this session in prayer.

Writer: Don Breeden



MIX
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Context (from the Mind session page)

Begin by asking:

- If you could change any one aspect of your body, what would it be and why?
- If you could change an aspect of someone else's body, what would you choose and why?
- What do you think the answers to those questions might be if asked outside of this group and why?
- Why do you think people place such value on certain physical attributes as opposed to others?
- In what ways does our attitude toward the physical self reflect our faith?

Content (from the Youth session page)

Read 1 Corinthians 6:12-20, and watch the Bible Background Video before asking:

- What does the first verse mean?
- What may be permissible for a Christian, but not beneficial?
- People in Paul's day thought their sexuality had nothing to do with their spirituality. How do you feel about that and why?
- How is that message communicated in our world today?
- What do you think Paul means when he says, "You were bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body"?
- What does the church get right and wrong when it talks about how people use their bodies and why?

Closure (from the Current session page)

Share the classic song "Stand By Me" and ask:

- Why do you think so many people see this song as an enduring classic?
- Who in your community most stands by you and how do you know?
- What does it mean to "live in community?"
- To what degree do you think the world looks at churches as examples of community and why?
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