

Series: Together Toward Maturity

Inductive Bible Study Guide: 1 Corinthians 6:12-20



Step 1: Observation – What does the passage say?

Read **1 Corinthians 6:12–20** carefully and slowly. Paul addresses how believers should use their freedom in Christ and why sexual purity matters for those who belong to Jesus.

Observation Prompts:

- What slogans or sayings does Paul quote?
 - How does Paul respond to those sayings?
 - What truths does he teach about the body?
 - What commands are given?
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Read the passage and note what you see:

What repeated phrase does Paul quote in verse 12, and how does he qualify it?

What does Paul say about food and the stomach in verse 13? What point is he making?

What truths about the body are listed in verses 13–15?

What does Paul warn about sexual immorality in verses 15–18?

What warning does Paul give in verses 9–10?

What does Paul say about the believer’s body in verses 19–20?

Step 2: Interpretation – What does the passage mean?

Paul confronts a distorted view of Christian freedom in Corinth. Some believers were excusing sexual sin by twisting slogans about liberty. Paul reminds them that the body is not meaningless—it belongs to the Lord, is united with Christ, and is the dwelling place of the Holy Spirit.

Questions to Explore:

What does Paul mean by “not all things are helpful” and “I will not be dominated by anything”? (v.12) How does this help us understand the limits of Christian freedom?

Why does Paul say the body is “for the Lord, and the Lord for the body”? (v.13)

What is the significance of believers being members of Christ’s body? (vv.15–17)

Why is sexual sin uniquely serious compared to other sins? (v.18)

What does it mean that believers are “bought with a price”? (v.20)

How does this shape our view of our bodies and our lives?

Word Study Suggestions:

- **Helpful (v.12):** Greek *sympherō* — profitable, beneficial, truly advantageous.
- **Dominated (v.12):** Greek *exousiazō* — to be mastered or controlled by.
- **Sexual immorality (v.13,18):** Greek *porneia* — any sexual activity outside God’s design.
- **Temple (v.19):** Greek *naos* — the sanctuary, dwelling place of God’s presence.
- **Bought with a price (v.20):** Refers to redemption through Christ’s blood (cf. 1 Pet. 1:18–19).

Step 3: Application – How should I respond?

This passage calls believers to embrace freedom with responsibility, to see their bodies as temples of the Spirit, and to glorify God in every part of life—including sexuality.

Personal Reflection:

Are there areas where I misuse Christian freedom by excusing sin or unwise behavior?

What habits or desires might be “dominating” me instead of Christ?

How would my view of myself change if I truly believed my body belongs to the Lord?

What does it look like in practice to “flee sexual immorality” today?

How can I glorify God with my body in both big decisions and daily life?

Summary Truths:

- Christian freedom is real, but not everything is beneficial or God-honoring.
- The body belongs to the Lord—it is not meaningless or disposable.
- Sexual sin is uniquely destructive because it unites us with another against God’s design.
- The believer’s body is the temple of the Holy Spirit.
- We are bought with a price—so we are called to glorify God with our bodies.

Optional Memory Verse:

“You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.”
— 1 Corinthians 6:19–20 (ESV)

Prayer Prompt:

“Lord, thank You for redeeming me at the cost of Christ’s blood. Help me to live in true freedom—not enslaved to sin but surrendered to You. Teach me to honor You with my body as Your temple.”

For Further Study:

- Romans 12:1 — Presenting our bodies as living sacrifices.
- Galatians 5:13 — Freedom to serve, not indulge the flesh.
- 1 Thessalonians 4:3–8 — God’s will for sexual holiness.