**RISE UP** in 2021

October 10, 2021

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**Beauty and Brokenness**

***Run, Run, Run***

1 Corinthians 6:18-20



Last week we talked about our bodies and the desires we have in them, from the desires of our five senses to the desires for sexual relationships. We always have a choice … we can either please God or please ourselves.

**We said …**

Your body was created by God for His **glory** and for your **earthly** and eternal **good**.

The body is not for **self**-**gratification** but for God **glorification**.

The God who **formed** you is **for** you.

In this broken **world**, we live in we all have broken **bodies**.

Jesus gave His **body** to make your **body** new.

We live with sexual temptation because we are human beings not because we live in the 21st century. When Paul was writing his letter to the Corinthians they were well aware of sexual sin. There were men living with men and women living women. There were examples in literature of all kinds of sexual confusion. The Jewish people, like Jesus and Paul were living in a Greco-Roman world filled with sexual sin.

**Last week we looked at 1 Corinthians 6:12-20 – today we are going to look at the last two verses in that section of text …**

***Flee from sexual immorality****. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body. Or do you not know that* ***your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit*** *within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, or you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.* 1 Corinthians 6:18–20

We are supposed to flee from things that can kill us. Run for your lives …

Spewing lava from volcanoes, active shooters in a crowd, a car going the wrong way on a freeway, snakes on a plane … all these come to mind. But, **so should sexual immorality.** To Christians in a sexually confused culture, Paul issued this clear command: “**Flee from sexual immorality.**”

Flee … from … sexual … immorality. **These four words are the most counter cultural words in society.**

Whenever God gives a negative command …

God is pointing us to something **better**.

God is protecting us from something **worse**.

*And now, Israel, what does the LORD your God require of you, but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and to keep the commandments and statutes of the LORD, which I am* ***commanding you today for your good****?* Deuteronomy 10:12–13

**Pornea** - all sexual activity outside of marriage between a man and a woman

None of us is immune to sexual temptation. We are all prone to not trust God when it comes to this command.

We must avoid **selective** moral outrage, pointing out sexual sin in others and yet not **avoiding** it in our own lives.

Just because we have that, it does not mean we should act upon it.

A natural **explanation** does not imply a **moral** obligation.

* Sexual **desire** : “I want …”
* Sexual **Identity**: “I am …”
* Sexual **activity**: “I act …”

*There is* ***a way*** *that* ***seems right to a man****, but its end is the way to death.* Proverbs 14:12

Do not **flirt** with sexual immorality: **F.L.E.E.**

**Fill** yourself with the things of God.

*Stolen water is sweet, and bread eaten in secret is pleasant. But he does not know that the dead are there, that her guests are in the depths of Sheol.* Proverbs 9:17-18

*I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst.* John 6:35

*Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes has eternal life. I am the bread of life.* John 6:47–48

**Fill yourself with His Spirit**:

*And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit.* Ephesians 5:18

**Fill yourself with His Word**:

*Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.* Matthew 8:4

*Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another.* Colossians 3:16

**Lock** out the lies.

Why do we run **to** - instead of **from** - sexual sin? Lies, I tell you!

*She seizes him and kisses him, and with bold face she says to him . . . “I have perfumed my bed. . . . Come, let us take our fill of love till morning.” . . . With much seductive speech she persuades him. All at once he follows her, as an ox goes to the slaughter.* Proverbs 7:13-23

*Keep your way far from her, and do not go near the door of her house,* Proverbs 5:8

**Exchange** lies for truth.

*because they* ***exchanged the truth about God for a lie*** *and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator … For this reason God gave them up to dishonorable passions. For their women exchanged natural relations for those that are contrary to nature;* Romans 1:25–26

*to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is* ***corrupt through deceitful desires****, and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to put on the new self,* ***created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.***Ephesians 4:22–24

Reject the **lie** and rehearse the **truth**:

* God is not stingy; **He is good.**

*… what does the LORD your God require of you, but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and to keep the commandments and statutes of the LORD, which I am* ***commanding you today for your good****?* Deuteronomy 10:12–13

* Sinful pleasures are not filling; **pleasures are fleeting**.

*By faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter, choosing rather to be mistreated with the people of God than to enjoy the f****leeting pleasures of sin****.* Hebrews 11:24–26

* People are not objects, but **image bearers**.

*So God created man in his own image,* ***in the image of God he created him****;* ***male and female*** *he created them.*

Genesis 1:27

* This is not private, but reaches heaven and **eternity**.

*Against* ***you, you only****, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgment.* Psalm 51:4

* God does not approve of sin because He loves to forgive, but forgives to **free us from sin**.

*What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? By no means!* ***How can we who died to sin still live in it****?* Romans 6:1–2

* Sexual sin is not harmless; it **harms.**

*For this is the will of God, your sanctification:* ***that you abstain from sexual immorality;*** *that each one of you know* ***how to control his own body*** *in holiness and honor,* ***not in the passion of lust*** *like the Gentiles who do not know God; that no one transgress and wrong his brother in this matter, because the Lord is an avenger in all these things, as we told you beforehand and solemnly warned you.* 1 Thessalonians 4:3–6

* It will not be easy to turn back, as you are already **hardening your heart.**

*But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called “today,” that none of you may be* ***hardened by the deceitfulness of sin****.* Hebrews 3:13

* This is not inevitable, since God provides a **way of escape**.

*No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he* ***will not let you be tempted beyond your ability****, but with the temptation he will also* ***provide the way of escape****, that you may be able to endure it.* 1 Corinthians 10:13

* Your past does not define you; Christ’s blood does.

*And* ***such were some of you****. But you were* ***washed****, you were* ***sanctified****, you were* ***justified*** *in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.* 1 Corinthians 6:11

**Expose** your sin to God’s light.

*God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.* 1 John 1:5-7