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Watch this video for an introduction to 1 Corinthians:

<https://www.rightnowmedia.org/Training/Post/View/188645>

If you missed the first Messed Up message go to jacobswellec.org and follow the message resources tab and watch week one.

Read all of 1 Corinthians chapter 5 and 6.

Study Questions

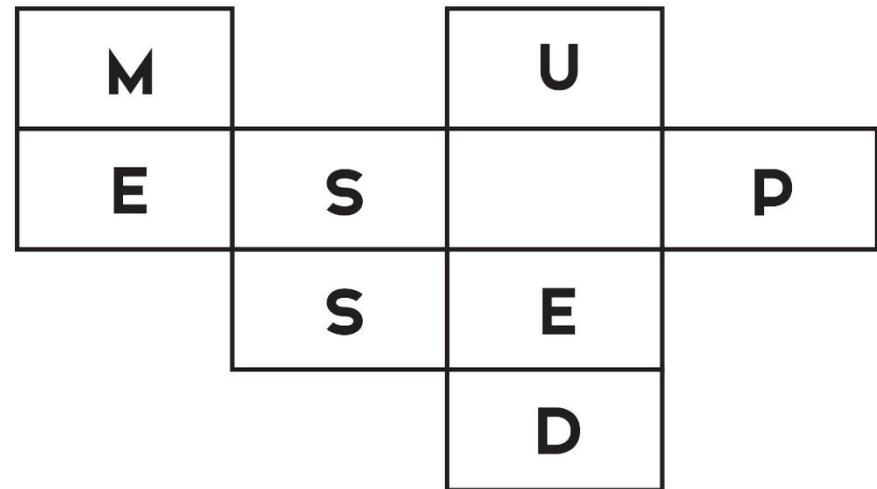
1. Corinth was messed up! Very often, people in the church were unclear about how to follow Jesus in such a confused culture. In the beginning of **1 Corinthians chapter 5**, Paul addresses a specific problem with sexual immorality that had gone unchecked in the church. What was the problem? What was the attitude of the believers in Corinth about this issue? Why was this attitude immature? What happens when a blatant sin like the one Paul addresses continues to go unchecked?
2. Some believers in Corinth were misinterpreting the freedom we have in Christ. **Read 1 Corinthians 6:12**. They believed grace meant they could continue in immoral behavior. Paul said he would not be dominated by anything. What happens when sin becomes our master?
3. What is “yeast” or “leavening”? **Read 1 Corinthians 5:6-8**. How does a little leaven affect the whole lump of dough? We do not want to be people of malice and wickedness, as Paul says, but people of sincerity and truth. As followers of Christ, when we do not address the problem of sin in our own life or help others address it in their lives, sin will grow. Why is the reference to “yeast” or “leavening” a perfect metaphor?
4. **Read Matthew 16:5-12**. What was the sin of the Pharisees and Sadducees? It is crucial that we address sin, but also that we do not take the path of the Pharisees and Sadducees. **Read John 8:1-11**. The Pharisees and Sadducees were immature, taking the path of judgment instead of love. What was Jesus’ response to the woman? How do we address sin in love? How is this the path of growing in maturity in Christ?
5. During the message this past weekend, Pastor Paul shared the example of followers of Christ in Corinth eating food sacrificed to idols. In his letter to the Corinthians, the Apostle Paul explained that eating meat that had been sacrificed to idols was not a sin. In **1 Corinthians 8:1-4**, we read that “an idol has no real existence” and that “there is no God but one.” The Apostle Paul explained that even though eating the meat was not a sin, it could be a source of confusion for a new believer. He explained that if it was a stumbling block for someone, he would not eat the meat. What would be an example of this kind of others-centered humility in our word today?

Personal Reflection

1. Take time to use the “Paraphrase It” method of Bible meditation, using **1 Corinthians 6:11**. **Remember, by God’s grace we are given new life in Christ Jesus. By the power of the Holy Spirit, God is changing us from the inside out as we take steps to know and become like Jesus.*
 - a. **Read 1 Corinthians 6:11 over and over.**
 - b. Think about what it meant when it was written, and what it means to you now.
 - c. Put it into your own words.
 - d. Search your heart to see how the verse applies to any specific situation in your life.
 - e. Think of it as two parts of a conversation. Say back to God what you heard Him say to you, but use your own words. Then respond to Him with your thoughts and prayers based on 1 Corinthians 6:11.
2. Reflect on your life. What signs of weakness from the weekend message are weaknesses you struggle with? Why? What next step do you feel God wants you to take by the power of His Holy Spirit at work within you?
 - a. I live in certainty rather than faith.
 - b. I live emotionally charged in my responses.
 - c. I live focused on the small things of life instead of on God.
 - d. I place issues over relationships.
 - e. I focus on winning over growing.
 - f. I demand to be heard rather than listening.
 - g. I present an air of superiority over true humility.
 - h. I am driven by pride, fear and self-righteousness rather than being guided by love.
3. Journal about what God is speaking to you through the message and devotions this week. Write out a prayer for guidance and direction using the ACTS prayer pattern:
 - a. Adoration
 - b. Confession
 - c. Thanksgiving
 - d. Supplication
4. Continue to pray the prayer of Saint Francis throughout our study of 1 Corinthians.

Prayer of Saint Francis:

Lord, make me an instrument of Your peace, Where there is hatred, let me sow love; Where there is injury, pardon; Where there is doubt, faith; Where there is despair, hope; Where there is darkness, light; Where there is sadness, joy; Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive; in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.



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