

TENSIONS

WEEK 2: MORALITY

DAY 1: READ 1 CORINTHIANS 4:14-21

When we go through this series and are consistently reminded with the very contrary nature of God's word to the world's standards, let's keep this passage in mind. As Christians, we are faced with putting our flesh to death and taking on the fullness of Christ through saturation with His Holy Spirit and obedience to God's word. Let's not shake off the things we read and study as surface crumbs with good intent, but let's remember Paul's intention behind the things we're learning in 1 Corinthians. Just like Paul was speaking to the Corinthians here, Christ is returning soon; let's not let our behavior be to our scorn before Him.

DAY 2: READ 1 CORINTHIANS 5:1-13

There is a stark contrast between the behavior of the world and what God expects of His people. How are we, as brothers and sisters, to behave with our sexuality? Look at verse 9. The Bible is clear about God's standards and expectations for righteous behavior. Paul, too, had already instructed them previously, yet the sinful practices are still being approved in Corinth. Why is Paul so serious about addressing unrepentant sin among believers? Looking at verses 6-13, why is it important to adhere to God's standards for holiness and purity and deal strongly with unrepentant sin? What does Paul tell us about understanding non-believers?

DAY 3: READ 1 CORINTHIANS 6:1-8

As Christians, when we encounter the tension, disagreement and hurt that comes from sin from other imperfect believers just like us, how do we demonstrate the love of Christ to the watching world? Think about Christians today. How are we shamefully representing Christ to the outside world instead of handling things between brothers and sisters of Christ? Are you going through something now? How can you best demonstrate Christ-like resolution like Paul calls us to here?

DAY 4: READ 1 CORINTHIANS 6:9-20

Why is it dangerous to be driven by appetite? How does sin cloud our appetites? How do you see this appetite-driven carelessness acted out in your life and the world around you? Specifically, regarding this passage's emphasis on sexuality, why is this passage important? With the resurrection of Jesus, we have life and a shared body with Him. What is the spiritual significance of the way we use our bodies?

DAY 5: READ 1 CORINTHIANS 7:1-24

What does this passage have to do with the significance of sexuality, appetite and God's call to holiness. How have you seen Christians distort godly, scriptural standards for sexuality into liberal or repressive ideals other than what the Bible describes? How is what Paul writes here important to a righteous, holy life full of life in the resurrection of Christ?

DAY 6: READ 1 CORINTHIANS 7:25-40

Christ is returning soon. What are you concerned about? If you knew with absolute certainty that the Lord was returning in two days, what would you do? What would you stop doing or no longer think about? In regard to sexuality, marriage and priorities, what is Paul communicating here?

DAY 7: READ 1 CORINTHIANS 5:8, 1 CORINTHIANS 6:19-20 & 1 CORINTHIANS 7:22-24

Let's not celebrate the great triumph of Jesus with the wicked brokenness of our sinful flesh or disregard for scripture and God's call to holy, righteous living. Rather, having been cleansed entirely by the blood of Jesus, let's start off pure and fresh, abiding in God's word and demonstrating the love of Christ with truth and sincerity.