

Notes on 1 Cor 5–6 for HGs 26 July 2023

Thank you for leading the Bible studies in 1 Corinthians this term. As mentioned in previous notes, these studies are focusing less on the detail of each passage but *applying* what we've heard from in the sermon on a Sunday.

Resources

Given these studies are more focused on applying the content of the sermons, it will be essential you listen to the sermons (<https://www.stmarys-basingstoke.org.uk/pjp/mediaevent/search>). It will also help your group members come having heard or reheard the sermon—why not encourage them **to listen before meeting?**

If you have questions about the detail, a verse-by-verse commentary is available here: <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/course/knowning-the-bible-1-corinthians/>.

Study

The study covers the previous two sermons, chapter 5 (preached on 16 Jul) and chapter 6 (preached on 23 Jul).

Please read through each passage yourself and listen/relisten to the sermons. You will want to ask one or two questions that help the group get back into what the passages. However, most questions should focus on *what does it mean for each of us and St Marys?* Some examples follow:

1. [Intro question] What's more important: what a church *believes* or what it *does*? Why? *This is to get us thinking about the theme of what follows.*
2. What is the presenting problem in chapter 5? *Helping us to see the issue in 5:1.*
3. Why does Paul speak to the *whole* church about the issue not just the individuals?
4. [Application questions] why does taking holiness seriously matter as a church?
5. What would it look like to have a culture at St Mary's of taking the holiness of each other seriously? How can we encourage it?
6. [Next chapter] Why are lawsuits amongst believers in 6:1–11 contrary to the gospel?
7. Where might we be tempted to "get even" with another in church? How does this passage help?
8. Why does how we use our body matter according to 6:12–20? *There are multiple answers!*
9. [Application questions] How does Paul's answer conflict with a contemporary attitude of "*it's just sex*" or "*it just satisfies an urge?*"
10. How might we encourage each other at St Mary's to "flee from sexual immorality" (v.18)? How does understanding who we are in Christ help (see 6:11, 19–20)?