

## Where We Are

### Where have we come from?

#### *Problems in Corinth*

They were, by their attitudes and lifestyles, nullifying the cross of its power to save, 1:17ff.

*They were divisive and fractious, 1 Cor 1:10-12; 3:2-3*

*They were proud, 1 Cor 1:25, 31; 3:21; 4:6, 7 18; 5:2, 6*

*They were spiritually immature, 3:1*

*They were tolerating incest in their church, 5:1, 2*

*They were selfishly taking one another to court, 6:1-11*

*There appears to be considerable sexual promiscuity in their midst, 6:12-20*

***There are more problems—we haven't covered them all!***

### Some of this material makes some uncomfortable

***I do not want this to be understood as an angry, reactive tirade***

***Years ago I made it my policy never to dodge difficult, hard, or uncomfortable texts.***

2 Tim 3:16 says all Scripture is profitable

***What parts do you want me to leave out?***

In some venues you'd give less detail; in others, more

***I am only saying what the text says.***

That is my job: to help you understand what the text says in a relevant way.

*I cannot make the world of God more appealing or convenient to please listeners, 2 Cor 2:17; 4:2*

The original language was more vivid to the first century listeners than the NIV

***Paul's letters were read aloud in the churches. There is no indication that children were asked to leave.***

**Children know more about these matters than some parents believe**

*Internet, blogs, IM's TV programs, TV news, school hallways, billboards as you drive down the road, magazines, music*

*Kids on my bus route know lots more than you'd think. Kids on Facebook know more than you think*

Children are exposed to these matters more quickly today than we'd like

*There is a time to shelter and protect children*

*There is a time to expose them to life's realities*

*We may be able to do little to stop this "quicker than we like" exposure but...*

They need to hear what the Bible says about these matters. They need to know God says something about these items.

Parents need to 1) wisely 2) sieze these matters as opportunities to teach.

*The woman who was upset at the preacher for using the word "virgin" in the pulpit. What about the word "circumcision?"*

*When children ask questions, you ought to tell them the truth at their level of ability to comprehend.*

## ***This is relevant material***

### **Homosexuality**

*There are churches today that are caving in to homosexuality*

It may become a battleground sooner than you think if certain politicians are elected.

*There are liberal and not-so-liberal theologians who are "re-interpreting" Greek and Hebrew words in ways that do not make this a sin.*

### **Incest has been in the news recently**

*Austrian man*

*Texas "Fundamentalist" Mormon Group*

### **Sexual immorality is rampant everywhere**

*TV shows you watch*

Christians often mentally prostitute themselves to the thinking and images of the world.

*Movies*

*Music*

*Online, billboards... etc*

It is not a wonder that the power of the cross is empty in many Bible-believing churches today.

People need to know what the Bible says about such matters and adjust their thinking and behavior accordingly

## Overview of chapter seven

*Paul is following through with the foundation he has laid in 6:12-20, especially 19 and 20.*

**7:1-7**

Never marrieds: about marriage, physical intimacy, immorality and self-control

**7:8-9**

Previously marrieds...

**7:10-11**

Married believers and divorce

**7:12-16**

Believers married to unbelievers and divorce

**7:17-24**

Governing principles

**7:25-28**

Virgins in a particular situation

**7:29-35**

More governing principles

**7:36-38**

Those betrothed

**7:39-40**

General overarching principle of marriage (focus on women)

**So what?**

***We are rich!***

God is good to give us clear instructions on how we should live.

***We must remember 1 Cor 6:19-20***

***We must live as people saved by grace***

***Maybe...***