

Life Group Notes 7/21/2024

Pastor Mark Warren You are Not Your Own Week 2

[No doctrine is a given unless it has been found in the Word given by the Holy Spirit and received by you. If you have observations or questions, feel free to send me an email with your comment or observations at tbeachhead@comcast.net. Thank you for taking the time—Pete Mehegan, the Scribe.]

Remember: Be good to one another. Be sensitive and kind. Let God heal our hearts...and guide our discussions. **PLEASE PRE-READ THESE NOTES AND CHOOSE THE DIRECTION THAT IS APPROPRIATE FOR YOUR GROUP.** BE COGNIZANT OF YOUR GROUP'S TIME AND BE SENSITIVE! **Some groups would like to dwell on a single idea. Let the Spirit be your guide. Never feel obligated to complete this study.**

Note: I have highlighted suggested discussion questions that Pastor Mark has raised this week, 7/21. Let's allow the Holy Spirit to guide all our discussions, using the highlights as trail blazes. **The purpose is to minister to one another.** I include each of the passages mentioned in full, to facilitate the enjoyment of these notes. Footnotes are not meant to distract. This week's footnotes include:

1. [On the dangers of unity.](#)
2. [On the morality of Corinth, the city.](#)
3. [On the brilliance of Paul in 1 Corinthians 7.](#)

*****Important:** At the very [end of these notes](#), I've included passages that were mentioned in this week's message for deeper study using SOAP journaling to help further your study during the week. ***

Pastor Mark opened with a pitch for Family Promise, inviting us to consider what it would be like to be without a home and with family. Take a moment and share what you've seen of Family Promise, and your own testimonies.

Pastor's theme, "You are not Your Own," involves realizing that there is true freedom in letting go of things.

1. What do you remember from last week.
2. Do you have a testimony?
3. Today we are going to examine the concept "Your body is not your own."
What did that evoke in you?

Watch how Paul proceeds. Look up 1 Corinthians 6: [9](#)Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who submit to or perform homosexual acts, [10](#)nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor verbal abusers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God. [11](#)And that is what some of you were. 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. [12](#)"Everything is permissible for me," but not everything is beneficial. "Everything is permissible for me," but I will not be mastered by anything. [13](#)"Food for the stomach and the stomach for food," but God will destroy them both. The body is not

intended for sexual immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. [14](#)By His power God raised the Lord from the dead, and He will raise us also.

1. What freedoms do we enjoy?
2. What robs us of our freedom?
3. How is there no freedom in drunkenness? In slander?
4. Look at verse 12. Contrast what is permissible with what is beneficial?
5. How is the Law written to OPTIMIZE our freedom?

Look up 1 Corinthians 6: [15](#)Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and unite them with a prostitute? Never! [16](#)Or don't you know that he who unites himself with a prostitute is one with her in body? For it is said, "The two will become one flesh." [17](#)But he who unites himself with the Lord is one with Him in spirit.

1. What does it mean to unite?
2. How is our body a "member of Christ?"
3. (What did Jesus do with His members when He wore sandals and walked on this earth?)
4. What is He doing with His members today? On whom is He focused when He sends out His members to them?
5. How real is the unity we create with our bodies? How is that unity limiting?
6. How liberating is it to "unite yourself to the Lord?" Explain.

Look up 1 Corinthians 6: [18](#)Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a man can commit is outside his body, but he who sins sexually sins against his own body. [19](#)Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; [20](#)you were bought at a price. Therefore glorify God with your body.

1. How do these verses expand on the above theme? What gets added to the warnings?
2. Is an addiction to immorality more dangerous than an addiction to food or alcohol? Explain.

Pastor says, "The temple is the dwelling place where His spirit resides. Paul tells us that we are the temple of God." He points out that, if our bodies are not our own, if we are actually the stewards of our lives, and actually stewarding our bodies, it's time to ask ourselves, "What is living inside me? What is in this shell? What is in this dwelling place." He continues, "When we come to Jesus, the Spirit indwells us and takes up residence; we have to ask ourselves, 'What is in our home? What are the conditions we are offering Him?'"

1. Take a moment to discuss this. What do you see?
2. Look up Revelation 3: [17](#)You say, 'I am rich; I have grown wealthy and need nothing.' But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind, and naked. [18](#)I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined by fire so that you may become rich, white garments so that you may be clothed and your shameful nakedness not exposed, and salve to anoint your eyes so that you may see. [19](#)Those I love, I rebuke and discipline. Therefore be earnest and repent. [20](#)Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in and dine with him, and he with Me. [21](#)To the one who

overcomes, I will grant the right to sit with Me on My throne, just as I overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne. What do you see?

3. How does the outward appearance of the Laodicean church belie the inner reality? What is the solution?
4. If He is standing at your door and knocking, do you open the door? What is on the table for dinner tonight?
5. What does His willingness to knock at the door of the compromised church say of His love for that church?
6. What is left the Laodicean church of history? How are we thus forewarned?
7. How do you know when Jesus is standing at the door knocking?

Look back again at 1 Cor 6: [16](#)Or don't you know that he who unites himself with a prostitute is one with her in body? For it is said, "The two will become one flesh." [17](#)But he who unites himself with the Lord is one with Him in spirit.

1. Discuss the concept of oneness. What does He desire?
2. What does He not desire?
3. What are the advantages of being "...one with Him in spirit?" Do you have a testimony?
4. Look up John 17: When Jesus had spoken these things, He lifted up His eyes to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son, that Your Son may glorify You. [2](#)For You granted Him authority over all people, so that He may give eternal life to all those You have given Him. [3](#)Now this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom You have sent. [4](#)I have glorified You on earth by accomplishing the work You gave Me to do. [5](#)And now, Father, glorify Me in Your presence with the glory I had with You before the world existed. How was Jesus united with the Father? To what degree? What was only ever Jesus' purpose?
5. How does unity in purpose unify?
6. What did Jesus do to glorify the Father?
7. What do we do to glorify Christ?
8. Look at verse 4. When the Spirit of God dwells in you, and you are no longer your own, how are you equipped to do unusually MORE?
9. What has He given you to do?

Continue from John 17:[20](#) I am not asking on behalf of them alone, but also on behalf of those who will believe in Me through their message, [21](#)that all of them may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I am in You. May they also be in Us, so that the world may believe that You sent Me. [22](#)I have given them the glory You gave Me, so that they may be one as We are one— [23](#)I in them and You in Me—that they may be perfectly united, so that the world may know that You sent Me and have loved them just as You have loved Me. [24](#)Father, I want those You have given Me to be with Me where I am, that they may see the glory You gave Me because You loved Me before the foundation of the world.

1. For whom is Jesus praying here? Did you come to believe through their message?
2. What does this prayer empower you to be?
3. What does this prayer empower you to do?
4. Look up Genesis 11: [5](#)But the Lord came down to see the city and the tower which the sons of men had built. [6](#)And the Lord said, "Indeed the people are one and

they all have one language, and this is what they begin to do; now nothing that they propose to do will be withheld from them. (NKJV) What is the promise of unity?

5. How is unity in the wrong spirit dangerous? How does unity in the right spirit create a promise and hope for all who see it?
6. Note this: The same God spoke in Genesis Who is praying here. What is different?
7. Look at verse **21...that all of them may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I am in You. May they also be in Us, so that the world may believe that You sent Me.** How unified is Jesus with the Father?
8. How unified is He praying that we be? Is this limited unity? Or unlimited?
9. What are the chances the Father will answer this prayer? Take a moment to pray this prayer in your group.
10. What does an answer look like?
11. Have you seen the answer yet? Have you come close to seeing it? Do you have a testimony?
12. How has Jesus disposed of the Glory God gave Him? Who has it now? Have you seen that glory lately? Have you caught glimpses?
13. What does the world see in a unified body?
14. How does this fit with what He told these same disciples at this same table in John 13: **34***A new commandment I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you also must love one another. 35**By this everyone will know that you are My disciples, if you love one another."*
15. How does love produce unity? How obedient to this command have we been over the centuries? What has the world seen?
16. Are we becoming obedient? What is Pembroke seeing in GCC? What have you seen?

Reflecting on Jesus' prayer, Pastor says, "Here's the thing. The idea of ownership of our bodies is actually the concept of mutual oneness. I in you, you in me, we in Him. Christ in us as we are in Christ."

1. Untangle this concept.
2. Mark says, "When we give our lives to Christ, we invite Jesus into our lives. We become the temple. We are the house, the shell, the dwelling place. Christ in me and me in Christ."

So follow Paul to 1 Corinthians 7: **1***Now for the matters you wrote about: It is good to abstain from sexual relations. 2**But because there is so much sexual immorality, each man should have his own wife, and each woman her own husband. 3**The husband should fulfill his marital duty to his wife, and likewise the wife to her husband. 4**The wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband. Likewise the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife. 5**Do not deprive each other, except by mutual consent and for a time, so you may devote yourselves to prayer. Then come together again, so that Satan will not tempt you through your lack of self-control. 6**I say this as a concession, not as a command.*

1. Look at verse 1. Why is Paul writing this passage? Is he preaching and instructing, or answering questions that arose?
2. Do questions always arise in your Christian walk? To whom do you turn for answers?
3. What do you imagine the question was to which Paul is giving an answer?
4. What is "...the marital duty?" What happened to ownership of one's own body?

5. What does it mean that neither husband nor wife has "...authority over his/her own body?"
6. Is this a sexist, misogynistic husband-only instruction? Is this a sexist, misanthropic wife-only instruction? Why is this remarkable, given the day and the times in which these exhortations were written?
7. How does the doctrine of authority over one's body usually balance itself out?
8. How does this doctrine balance itself out biblically?
9. Why is this so difficult to talk about? How does Paul handle the subject?
10. Look at verse 5. *5Do not deprive each other, except by mutual consent and for a time, so you may devote yourselves to prayer. Then come together again, so that Satan will not tempt you through your lack of self-control.* What does obedience to this verse require? What happens if there is no conversation?
11. How is abstention like fasting?
12. Now review Christ's prayer for unity above. How does that deepen Paul's exhortation?
13. What is the purpose of unity? Who sees this unity when it comes to husband and wife? Who benefits from a unified marriage?
14. What was Corinth like? (Hint: look at verse 2. See the [footnote 2 below](#).) How does obedience to this instruction protect marriage on a practical level?

Look now at Paul's message to singles: 1 Corinthians 7: [8](#) Now to the unmarried and widows I say this: It is good for them to remain unmarried, as I am. [9](#) But if they cannot control themselves, let them marry. For it is better to marry than to burn with passion.

1. What are the choices? Review above, why is immorality not a choice?
2. How can you tell if you're not "gifted" the way Paul was?
3. What is the advantage to being single? Who owns the single person?
4. Is there an advantage to being married? List them.
5. Look up 1 Corinthians 7: [32](#) *I want you to be free from concern. The unmarried man is concerned about the work of the Lord, how he can please the Lord. [33](#) But the married man is concerned about the affairs of this world, how he can please his wife, [34](#) and his interests are divided. The unmarried woman or virgin is concerned about the work of the Lord, how she can be holy in both body and spirit. But the married woman is concerned about the affairs of this world, how she can please her husband. [35](#) I am saying this for your own good, not to restrict you, but in order to promote proper decorum and undivided devotion to the Lord.* What advantages does Paul list?
6. Do you agree? Can you see his point?

"So," Pastor Mark continues, "our body is not our own. We were bought with a price. Christ in us and us in Christ makes us one, so the world might know. We are the temple of the Holy Spirit. But then Paul goes on to say the other part of this. The '...not your own...' implies also that your spouse has a right to your body. Your spouse has a right to your body, and so you say, 'Naah, I don't like the sound of that one.'"

1. Is this difficult?
2. How is this a real test of our own willingness to obey?
3. Are we really a slave to Christ? Or is it "slavery to a limited degree"? Ultimately, who makes the choice?
4. What do you gain when you make the right choice? Can you lose? What do you have to lose?

“The point in this is realizing that we are ‘one.’ The point is not to transfer from ‘one to another.’ The point is mutual agreement with unifying strength as the result. That’s why Paul says, ‘Do not deprive each other...EXCEPT by agreement, for a limited time that is given to prayer.’ The important principle is that we are not lording anything over one another. We have come to a place of agreement. And now the concept of ownership expands.”

1. Your bodies belong to each other...and to whom else?
2. If your body belongs to the church, what is in play? To what extent?
3. If your body belongs to Christ’s purposes and His glory, what is in play?
4. The scripture says we belong one to another, we are to serve one another, we are a part of one body as members. We are to be acting as one. Explain.
5. Look at 2 Timothy 3: *1But know this, that in the last days [a](#)perilous times will come: [2](#)For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, [3](#)unloving, [b](#)unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, [4](#)traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, [5](#)having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away! [6](#)For of this sort are those who creep into households and make captives of gullible women loaded down with sins, led away by various lusts, [7](#)always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.* Contrast the last days world with the last days church in obedience.
6. Describe and explain the power and the glory of the latter.
7. Look at what Daniel 11 says of us: *“[32](#)Those who do wickedly against the covenant he shall [a](#)corrupt with flattery; but the people who know their God shall be strong, and carry out great exploits.[33](#)And those of the people who understand shall instruct many; yet for many days they shall fall by sword and flame, by captivity and plundering.”* What are the dangers? What is the promised honor?
8. How are those with understanding contrasted with “those who do wickedly against the covenant.” Do you see their description in Paul’s warning to Timothy?
9. How is it that those who are willing to “give themselves away” avoid becoming “lovers of themselves.”
10. Jesus said, “There is not greater love than this, that you lay down your life for your friend.” How does this fit here?
11. If you are, as the 21st century teaches, your own individual, able to make your own way, what way do you choose, knowing the promised outcome?
12. If you have said, “My life is not my own and my body is not my own,” how has your personal freedom increased?
13. Look up Galatians 2: *19For through the law I died to the law so that I might live to God. [20](#)I have been crucified with Christ, and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me. [21](#)I do not set aside the grace of God. For if righteousness comes through the law, Christ died for nothing.* How does this fit into the concept of “not your own” that Mark is highlighting?
14. If you have really been crucified, how much of YOU is left in theory? How much of you is left in reality?
15. If God has given you the ability to do things your own way, what way do you choose?
16. When do you begin? What is changing?

17. What do you look forward to? What does that freedom look like?
18. Paul calls himself a *doulos*/bondslave to Christ. What freedom did he experience in that?
19. Mark says, "Paul is trying to create this imagery that we do NOT belong to ourselves." How effectively did Paul do this?
20. Mark says that when we give over ownership, we enable ourselves to echo Jesus' prayer: "I have done everything you put into my hands to do. I did not do my will, but your will was done." What freedom is found in accomplishment?
21. What changes when God answers Jesus' prayer and makes us one? What changes in your marriage?
22. What changes in the church? How is the community benefited by a united church?
23. What is impossible to a united church?
24. What does this look like: We belong to each other, and we belong to a body.
25. Mark says, "This is where I agonize, when we hurt one another and then we leave the body. I do not believe one can develop properly without the 'sandpaper' that refines us and makes us one." Do you have a testimony?
26. What impediments to unity do you struggle with? What steps need to be taken?

Mark closed addressing singles:

1. List the advantages to singleness Paul mentions?
2. What are the drawbacks?
3. Is there a cure for loneliness? Do you have a testimony?
4. Mark says, "I want to commend you in that you are honoring God." Review [1 Corinthians 7:22 above](#). How does that work?
5. If you are single, how is your body not your own? To whom are you being deliberately faithful?
6. How does your faithfulness to your future spouse benefit you and your spouse?
7. Mark says, "You are very much a part of what God is doing." Explain.
8. Is it time to clean house?

The Follow-up Application

1. Use the [SOAP journal studies](#) below throughout the week.
2. Write down what you heard at a personal level today. Note what was difficult to hear.
3. Is there a roadblock to unity for you?
4. What steps have you resolved to take to clean house? When will you start?
5. Share that step with your spouse or with a friend.

Take the time to pray.

Scribe's Notes:

1. **On the dangers of unity**—God lays the theme of unity as a strand in the entire Promise of God, beginning with the dangers of misguided unity as we

saw in Genesis 11: *5But the Lord came down to see the city and the tower which the sons of men had built. 6And the Lord said, "Indeed the people are one and they all have one language, and this is what they begin to do; **now nothing that they propose to do will be withheld from them.*** (NKJV) One wonders why that's a bad thing...until one reads what they were doing and saying to each other: Genesis 11: *4"Come," they said, "let us build for ourselves a city with a tower that reaches to the heavens, that we may make a name for ourselves and **not be scattered over the face of all the earth.**"* These men were in direct rebellion against God's commission to Noah, in Genesis 9: *1And God blessed Noah and his sons and said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and **fill the earth.** 2The fear and dread of you will fall on every living creature on the earth, every bird of the air, every creature that crawls on the ground, and all the fish of the sea. They are delivered into your hand.* (Note how this echoes Adam's directive in Genesis 1: *28God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, **and fill the earth and subdue it; rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and every creature that crawls upon the earth.**"*) Can it be that unity without obedience is a destructive force? Jesus said, "A house divided against itself cannot stand." When we begin to understand the power of unity, and the nature of the forces that are moving against the Church today, how encouraging is it to remember that Jesus Himself prayed for and foresaw our overwhelming, all-overcoming unity?

- 2. On the morality of Corinth, the city**—The city of Corinth was known for centuries as the site of the temple to Aphrodite, the goddess of love, which employed one thousand prostitutes in her service. Centuries before, in ancient Greek literature, the verb "to corinthianize", and references to "Corinthian girls" referred to the outrageous immoral behavior of the city. Recorded sermons and commentaries often refer to Corinth as the "Las Vegas" or the "San Francisco" of the ancient world. Actual research on the claims is rarely done. Those archaeologists and historic anthropologists who have studied the evidence come up with markedly less corruption than what is usually described. Given that the morality of the empire was universally closer to that of Las Vegas than to that of a monastery, scholars compare Corinth favorably to cities like Ephesus. The incest Paul describes in his letter to the Corinthians would have been rejected throughout the pagan empire. This is one of the better-balanced articles I found on this: <https://readingacts.com/2019/03/21/acts-18-corinth-as-sin-city/>
- 3. On the brilliance of Paul in 1 Corinthians 7**—No study of Paul's alleged misogyny is complete without his discussion of marriage that appears in 1 Corinthians 7. Take time this week to read chapters 6 and 7 again. Think that Paul who, unlike any of the other apostles, remained single, was able to counsel in such a clear and balanced way. Does anyone lose in their relationships, if they follow his advice? Is there any way not to win? It's not possible to handle in one footnote the other pitfalls in Paul's work, where "...women are to remain silent." That will be for another footnote at another time, although it is no less important.

For further study:

Take a moment each day this week to apply the **SOAP**... (**S**cripture—Copy the scripture. / **O**bservation—Write what you see. / **A**pplication—What is God saying? / **P**ray—What is your response?) ...method to some of the scripture we looked at this week:

Monday: 1 Corinthians 6:9-14
Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 6:15-17
Wednesday: Revelation 3:17-21
Thursday: John 17:1-4
Friday: John 17:20-24
Saturday: John 13:34-35
Sunday: 1 Corinthians 7:1-7

Once again, some passages suggested here have more than the usual number of verses. This is not to increase the burden but to provide clarity of context. Pick the verses that speak to you most clearly, and run these through the SOAP steps.