GCFSM SUNDAY BULLETIN

NOVEMBER 8, 2026
BULLETIN ISSUE #45

GCF SOUTH METRO CHURCH

SERMON OUTLINE

#REALTALK 9

REDEFINED: IDENTITY AND PURITY IN A CONFUSED WORLD

1 CORINTHIANS 6:11–20 | REV. LITO VILLORIA

"It's my body. It's my choice." These words express the assumption that freedom means deciding for ourselves how to live. Yet believers can profess allegiance to Jesus while treating their desires, relationships, and private habits as entirely their own. Paul confronts this contradiction by connecting our identity in Christ with the call to sexual purity.

We claim the right to rule our lives when personal preference becomes our highest authority. Some Corinthians appealed to what was "lawful" to defend their conduct. Paul challenged their understanding of freedom by asking whether their choices were beneficial and whether anything was gaining mastery over them. Our freedom in Christ must be exercised in obedience to Him.
(1 Corinthians 6:12)

Our own desires can master us. What begins as a choice can become a controlling habit. Paul declares that the body is for the Lord, that God will raise believers, and that their bodies are members of Christ. Sexual conduct therefore involves the whole person and cannot be separated from belonging to Him. (1 Corinthians 6:13–17)

Our bodies now belong to Christ. Paul's declaration, "You are not your own," challenges the assumption of self-ownership. Believers were bought with a price. Christ's redemption establishes His claim upon our lives, Christ's authority includes our bodies, and Christ's ownership gives direction to our choices.
(1 Corinthians 6:19–20)

His grace gives us a brand new start. Paul reminds believers that they were washed, sanctified, and justified in the name of Jesus Christ and by God's Spirit. They are also indwelt by the Spirit. Christ provides cleansing and a right standing before God, while His Spirit enables them to pursue holiness. (1 Corinthians 6:11, 19)

We choose to honor Christ each day through concrete obedience: flee all forms of sexual sin, submit your desires to Jesus, and honor the Lord with your body. Wise boundaries, godly accountability, and faithful daily choices express devotion to Him. (1 Corinthians 6:18–20)

Because we belong to Christ, we must honor God with our bodies. This sermon calls believers to ground their identity in Christ's redeeming grace and pursue purity in a confused world. ❋

PARSON TO PERSON

SEEKING GOD'S GUIDANCE, PREPARING FOR HIS WORK

REV. LITO VILLORIA

"Teach me your way, O LORD, that I may walk in your truth; unite my heart to fear your name."
– Psalm 86:11

Last Friday, the Lord reminded me through Psalm 86:11 of David's prayer for divine instruction and an undivided heart. David desired not only to understand God's ways but also to walk faithfully in His truth. His prayer reminds us that seeking God's guidance involves both discerning His will and committing ourselves to obey Him.

This is particularly meaningful as we prepare GCF South Metro for 2027. We need the Lord's wisdom to guide our decisions and unite our hearts as we pursue His work together.

Preparing Our 2027 Annual Ministry Plans and Budgets

I praise God for His faithfulness and the Holy Spirit's guidance throughout the past three months as we prepared our 2027 Annual Ministry Plans and Budgets (AMPB).

Beginning with our Pastoral Staff Retreat in July, our ministry leaders, pastoral staff, elders, and deacons have invested considerable time in reviewing our ministries, identifying priorities, and preparing plans and budgets.

Last Thursday and Friday evenings, our Board of Deacons (BOD) held marathon meetings to review the proposed AMPB. I appreciate their diligence, thoughtful discussions, and commitment to responsible stewardship. The BOD received and affirmed the proposals for endorsement to the Board of Elders (BOE).

This coming Tuesday, November 10, the BOE will deliberate on the proposed AMPB for approval before these are presented to our congregation on December 6.

Our Four Strategic Ministry Priorities for 2027

As we approach our 30th Anniversary and prepare for Vision 2037, our ministry plans are guided by four strategic priorities.

1. **Clarify and Strengthen the Disciplemaking and Multiplication Pathway.** Help members grow as disciples of Jesus, disciple others, and participate in multiplying disciples.
2. **Develop a Churchwide Culture of Biblical Prayer.** Encourage consistent, dependent, and biblical prayer throughout our congregation.
3. **Equip Members for Missional Discipleship in Every Sphere.** Prepare members to live as witnesses and disciplemakers in their families, workplaces, schools, and communities.
4. **Strengthen Next Generation Formation and Leadership Development.** Intentionally disciple, mentor, and develop younger believers and emerging leaders.

Our AMPB must be more than a collection of activities and financial allocations. Every ministry and resource should contribute to the spiritual growth of people, leadership development, and disciple multiplication.

Preparing Our Church Leadership for 2027

We are also preparing for the election and affirmation of our elders and deacons.

Following the close of nominations on October 25, our Nomination Committee is reviewing nominations and interviewing prospective nominees to assess their biblical qualifications, spiritual maturity, willingness, and readiness to serve. This process continues until November 21, followed by a fellowship and orientation with qualified nominees on November 29.

Please pray for wisdom and discernment as we seek leaders who will faithfully shepherd, serve, and lead God's people.

December 6 – Twelve Baskets of Christmas and Annual Business Meeting

Sunday, December 6, will be an important day for our church family.

We will observe our traditional **Twelve Baskets of Christmas,** an opportunity to express our thanksgiving to God through a special Christmas offering beyond our regular giving.

Twelve baskets representing the twelve birth months will be provided for our gifts. I encourage every member and household to begin praying and preparing to participate as the Lord enables.

After our second worship service, we will hold our **Annual Business Meeting**, during which the congregation will consider the proposed 2027 AMPB for approval and participate in the election and affirmation of our elders and deacons.

I encourage all church members to attend and participate prayerfully.

Church family, as we prepare for the coming year, may David's prayer become our own. Through the Holy Spirit, may we seek God's direction, walk faithfully in His truth, and pursue His work with undivided hearts.

May everything we prepare and undertake advance His disciplemaking mission and bring glory to His name. ❋

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