

First Baptist Church of Progress Village
Wednesday Bible Study
1 Corinthians Chapter 7
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I. The Challenges sexual immorality presented within marriage.

1 Corinthians 7:1 (KJV) *Now concerning the things whereof ye wrote unto me: It is good for a man not to touch a woman.*

A. This a statement of **purity** as much as one of **celibacy**.

1 Corinthians 7:2 (KJV) *Nevertheless, to avoid fornication, let every man have his own wife, and let every woman have her own husband.*

B. One reason to marry is to **avoid** sexual sin.

The text goes beyond simply marrying so you can have **guilt-free** sex.

- 1) Celibacy is permitted, but not **commanded**.
- 2) Singleness does not make you more or less (**super** or **sub**) **spiritual** than marriage.
- 3) One man and one woman says God does not approve of **polygamy**, homosexuality, etc.

Hebrews 13:4 (KJV) *Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge.*

C. The nearest thing to heaven on earth is a home **dedicated** in Christian marriage.

1 Corinthians 7:3 (KJV) *Let the husband render unto the wife due benevolence: and likewise also the wife unto the husband.*

D. Christian husbands and wives maintain the **example** and testimony of **Holy** living.
SEX IS NOT SIN, CONTEXT MATTERS

1 Corinthians 7:4 (KJV) *The wife hath not power of her own body, but the husband: and likewise also the husband hath not power of his own body, but the wife.*

1 Corinthians 7:4 (NLT2) *The wife gives authority over her body to her husband, and the husband gives authority over his body to his wife.*

E. Sex is a **gift**, created by God, then **shared** (or given freely) within marriage.

1 Corinthians 7:5 (NLT2) *Do not deprive each other of sexual relations, unless you both agree to refrain from sexual intimacy for a limited time so you can give yourselves more completely to prayer. Afterward, you should come together again so that Satan won't be able to tempt you because of your lack of self-control.*

F. The only reason for **abstinence** in marriage is for higher spiritual reasons.

This does not apply to physical illness or abusive situations. The expectation is if love and respect truly exist, there is no reason couples should not regularly engage intimately.

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G. Don't short circuit the holiness and promise with lustful unholy thoughts actions.

This is not justification for anyone to seek sexual attention OUTSIDE of your marriage. It is instructions on how to keep sexual attention INSIDE your marriage!

1 Corinthians 7:6-7 (NLT2) *I say this as a concession, not as a command. But I wish everyone were single, just as I am. But God gives to some the gift of marriage, and to others the gift of singleness.*

H. Singleness and marriage are both equal, but different gifts to be used for God's glory and kingdom building.

1 Corinthians 7:8 (KJV) *I say therefore to the unmarried and widows, It is good for them if they abide even as I.*

1 Corinthians 7:39-40 (NLT2) *A wife is bound to her husband as long as he lives. If her husband dies, she is free to marry anyone she wishes, but only if he loves the Lord. But in my opinion it would be better for her to stay single, and I think I am giving you counsel from God's Spirit when I say this.*

I. Paul speaks from experience saying if you have been married you will be more satisfied to remain single once you become a widow/widower.

1 Corinthians 7:9 (KJV) *But if they cannot contain, let them marry: for it is better to marry than to burn.*

J. The "burn" is not burn in Hell, but to burn with uncontrolled passion for flesh.

What happens when in a marriage that already exists, one spouse gets saved, but not the other?

1 Corinthians 7:10-16 (NASB) *But to the married I give instructions, not I, but the Lord, that the wife should not leave her husband (but if she does leave, she must remain unmarried, or else be reconciled to her husband), and that the husband should not divorce his wife. ... if any brother has a wife who is an unbeliever, and she consents to live with him, he must not divorce her. And a woman who has an unbelieving husband, and he consents to live with her, she must not send her husband away. For the unbelieving husband is sanctified through his wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified through her believing husband; for otherwise your children are unclean, but now they are holy. Yet if the unbelieving one leaves, let him leave; the brother or the sister is not under bondage in such cases, but God has called us to peace. For how do you know, O wife, whether you will save your husband? Or how do you know, O husband, whether you will save your wife?*

If you are married to a believer stay married. If you are married to a non-believer unless...

Matthew 19:7-9 (KJV) *They say unto him, Why did Moses then command to give a writing of divorcement, and to put her away? ...9 And I say unto you, Whosoever shall put away his wife, except it be for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery.*

K. Sexual immorality erodes intimacy and destroys the foundation of marriage.

Next Week Finish Read Chapter 7:17-40