

Learning and Living the Bible Together

Lessons from 1 Corinthians

1 Cor. 7

1. Marriage and the sexual relationship (7:1-5)

Paul is answering questions sent to him. Paul's answers are directed toward the questions asked and are not the only information in Scripture on marriage. Paul makes the point that he is providing additional information to them on this subject. His first subject to address is regarding marriage, abstinence, and the sexual relationship within marriage.

- a) Being single is an acceptable lifestyle but not for all people. If you are single, you are to be celibate.
- b) Sex is reserved for marriage. Marriage is between a man and a woman.
- c) Marriage is more than a sexual relationship.
 - Marriage is for proclaiming Him and showing a picture of Christ. (Eph. 5:22-33)
 - Marriage is for producing families and future generations. (Gen. 1:27-28)
 - Marriage is for husband and wife to complement one another and serve as partners in service to Him. (Gen. 2:18; Prov. 18:22; 19:14; Eph. 5:22-33)
 - Marriage is also for pleasure and protection. (Gen. 2:24-25; Prov. 5:18-19; Song of Solomon; 1 Cor. 7:1-5)
- c) Sexual desires are strong and we are vulnerable to sexual sin. (Prov. 5-7)
- d) Marriage is special and sacrificial.
 - The husband and wife are to meet the needs of each other.
 - Marriage involves communication.
 - Marriage involves knowing one another, understanding one another, and caring for one another.
- e) Sexual abstinence for a time occurs by agreement by both husband and wife.

2. Marriage and our commitment (7:10 - 24)

- a) Marriage between a man and a woman for life is God's design. (Gen. 2:22-24; Matt. 19:4-6; Mark 10:5-9; Mal. 2:16)
- b) Marriage commitments are to be honored even if one spouse is unsaved.
- c) You are to be obedient to God and trust Him in your circumstances.

3. Singleness and marriage (7:1, 7-9, 25-40)

- a) Being single or being married are both acceptable lifestyles.
- b) Being single can be full of temptation for many so they may need to get married.
- c) Being single is a gift.
- d) Being single gives you opportunity for additional service to God.
- e) Make sure your marriage is led by God and focused on His Kingdom. We can become focused on “our world”. Our attention can turn to our security, comfort, just “our” marriage, just “our” family, pleasure, convenience, etc. (Eph. 5:21)
 - guard against selfishness and being self-absorbed within your marriage
 - guard against focusing on each other over God
 - have a relationship surrendered to serving together for His Kingdom
- f) You are free to remarry if your spouse dies.

4. Some reminders from chapter 7 discussion:

- a) be married to a follower of Christ
- b) make sure your marriage is surrendered to service to Him
- c) be committed to your marriage for life
- d) be pure and sacrificial within your marriage
- e) teach the sanctity and design of marriage within your home and family
- f) if you have regrets about your past, yield it to God. Remember He forgives. Rest in His forgiveness and go forward in commitment and service to Him.