

God's Word Concerning Marriage and Sex 1 Corinthians 7:1-9

Introduction:

1. Paul begins this chapter with, "*Now concerning the things whereof ye wrote unto me...*"
2. The Corinthian church had obviously written a letter to Paul asking his advice on a number of issues. The rest of this book, Paul is dealing with a lot of these questions.
3. The Corinthians had a number of questions about marriage, single life, divorce, sex within marriage, etc.
4. This chapter deals thoroughly with these issues for the church, the body of Christ.
5. Paul has given us (the body of Christ) clear instruction for this time of grace. Tonight we will focus on Paul's instructions regarding marriage and sex. There are four principles I want us to see in God's Word.

Marriage is a better life (for some people). vs. 9

- If two people are in love and they are burning in desire for one another, Paul teaches that marriage is better than remaining single. It is expedient and advisable.

Marriage is only to be done in the Lord. vs. 39

1. Paul is, of course, addressing the church when he writes this. Believers can choose who they want to marry, but within God-given boundaries. What are the boundaries? Paul says, "*...only in the Lord.*"
 - In other words, a believer is only to marry another believer.
2 Corinthians 6:14-18
2. Many a Christians have destroyed their lives because they thought they were smarter than God and could disregard this Bible command.
3. Christian, you better make sure that they are saved, but you better also make sure that they hold to sound doctrine. **Amos 3:3** states, "*Can two walk together, except they be agreed?*"

Marriage is a life with added responsibility. vs. 33-34

1. Some people want to get married, but then live like they are still single. This is evidence of immaturity or ignorance regarding the marriage relationship.
2. Marriage is a joining together of two separate lives into one. You are no longer **two**, but one flesh. **Matthew 19:5-6**
 - There is no deeper human relationship; you belong uniquely to that one person. vs. 2
 - You give yourself to the other so that you belong to them and they belong to you. vs. 4
3. It takes **grace** to live this way. It takes grace to understand and accept each other. The first thing marriage requires is mutual unselfishness. You can't be selfish and make it work. You have the responsibility of absolute, total, mutual unselfishness. vs. 3
4. The only way you can do this is to live in an appreciation of the grace of God. When two believers within the body of Christ are allowing Christ to live through

them in mutual unselfishness, marriage is the most special relationship on planet earth.

- When the husband and wife have the attitude, "I'm looking out for his/her best interests, no matter what it costs, I'm going to see that he/she is fulfilled and satisfied."
- This is the mind of Christ - the grace life. **Philippians 2:2-5**

Marriage is a life where sexual desires are to be expressed and sexual needs fulfilled.

1. A sexual drive is not sinful. vs. 9
2. If a person does not desire this or struggles with this, then Paul recommends the single life and says it's a good life.
3. But when two people fall in love, it is only natural for them to desire one another in an intimate way. This is the idea of "burn" in verse 9. They are burning in desire for each other.
4. Paul says in verse 2 "*...to avoid fornication, let every **man** have his own **wife**, and let every **woman** have her own **husband**."* What does this teach?
 - Homosexuality is wrong - it is not God's plan.
 - Polygamy is wrong - it is not God's plan.
 - Sex outside of marriage is wrong - it is fornication. 6:15-18
 - Sex inside of marriage is proper, healthy, and pure. **Hebrews 13:4** (it's not dirty)
5. The one thing you can't do with another person without the marriage bond is the sexual relationship. Every other activity you can do. The one thing you do not share without the marriage **bond** is the marriage **bed**.
6. But its not just that sex is **okay** and permitted in marriage. This passage goes on to teach that it is **expected** to be a **regular** part of the marriage relationship. vs. 3-5
7. One aspect of marriage is that by the fulfilling of sexual desires, it helps that couple to stay pure (vs. 2). This is a rightful expectation when you enter marriage. Paul says in verse 5, "*Defraud ye not one the other...*" Why? Because if you stay apart for very long, Satan can get an inroad. He can bring temptation.
8. It appears that some of the Corinthians had written to Paul wondering if it was godly to refrain from the sexual relationship within marriage.
9. Paul gives a resounding "No!" It's what consummates marriage. It's what makes marriage, marriage. Paul teaches that to withhold that from your spouse is **sinful** and wrong.
 - Before you enter into marriage, you need to understand that this is part of marriage and an important part. It is so important that God talks about it in His Word. **Proverbs 5:18-19; Song of Solomon**
 - If you want to marry simply because you're lonely or want a companion or want children and you have no intention of regular sexual intimacy being a vital part of your marriage, don't marry! It will not work because it is not God's plan!
10. But I want you to notice that Paul never infers that sex is just for the man (read again vs. 3-5). It's a two-way street; both husband and wife need this intimacy and it is intended for their **mutual** satisfaction.

11. This is the **physical** expression of your mutual love and unselfishness toward one another. When you are not together physically, it is so easy to develop an independent spirit and not live in oneness.
 - If either spouse does not enjoy the sexual intimacy of marriage, this is simply indicative of another issue. It is a symptom of a deeper, root issue.
 - Someone might say, "God just made me this way." That is a lie from Satan. It simply is not true. It is a cop out. Blaming God is not the answer.
12. There is a **reason** why. You owe it to yourself and your spouse to find out why.
 - It could be other marital issues, a lack of knowledge, emotional scars from the past, mental strongholds, or just a physical issue that can be easily resolved.
13. Here's the point: If it is not an enjoyable, edifying experience that enhances your marriage, there is a reason why. God designed it to be just that.
 - Many couples end up divorcing over this issue. Divorce is not the answer. You can work through this with God's guidance.
14. Marriage and sex was **God's** idea. Please get some godly counsel and work through whatever issues are standing in the way of you and your spouse enjoying this God-given gift.
 - The point of this message wasn't to work through every possible scenario, situation and question that can come up. As you study basic Bible principles, may it encourage you to seek godly counsel for specific questions you may have.
15. Marital intimacy is God's wedding gift to married couples to be used throughout your entire married life.

In Conclusion:

1. God's Word is so practical and helpful. It is plain and clear. We have seen four principles concerning marriage (review).
2. There is one principle we did not examine, but we will next week - marriage is a life-time commitment to one person.
3. What a blessing to grow old with the husband or wife of your youth. What a blessing when that relationship just keeps getting sweeter and more satisfying with each passing year. This is God's plan!