

“Principles For Marriage Pt. 1”
1 Corinthians 7:1-9
4/25/21
Message 14

Introduction

- Title of the Message is: “Principles For Marriage Pt. 1”

- **Review - Making our Way through 1 Corinthians**

- **1st I sure you have Noticed**
 - As we have been going through this great book
 - I am sure you notice it's like looking into a mirror of the modern-day church
 - We see all the same problems today
 - Goes to show – the more things change the more they stay they same
 - The heart of man is the problem
- **2nd Issues**
 - **Chapters - 1-2 DIVISION**
 - Pride - Caused Division Chapters 1-2
 - I am of Paul - Apollos, etc...
 - **Chapter 3 - CARNAILTY**
 - Carnality in the church Chapter 3
 - They were stuck on milk - could not eat meat
 - **Chapter 4 - RIGHT – EXAMPLE**
 - What a TRUE church and PASTOR should look like

- **Chapter 5 - IMMORALITY IN THE CHURCH**

- Moves to the Subject of Sexual Sin -
- Unrepentant Sin
- Church Discipline

- **Chapter 6 – “DO YOU NOT KNOW”**

- 1st As A Challenge -
- 2nd As An Encouragement
- Remember Your position in Christ
 - AKA = "Remember WHAT / WHO You Are"
 - AKA = "Remember To Whom You Belong."

- **Now This Moring Chapter 7**

- **Paul Switches Gears**

- Up to this point...
 - Paul had been dealing with the **SINS REPORTED** to be known in the Corinthian Congregation
- He now begins to **Answer Questions** that they had written to him
 - Celibacy - Marriage (1 Cor. 7:1, 25)
 - Food offered to idols (1 Cor. 8:1)
 - Spiritual Gifts (1 Cor. 12:1)
 - The Resurrection of the Dead (1 Cor. 15:1)
 - The Missionary Offering for the Jews (1 Cor. 16:1)

- **The FIRST Question he addresses**

- Celibacy – Marriage

- In his answer, he will ALSO Give several Principles that Apply to Marriage
- NOTE
 - As we study 1 Corinthians 7
 - Please keep in mind that Paul is replying to definite questions
 - He is not giving a Complete 'Theology of = Marriage' in this chapter
 - He's only talking about a few principles that apply to marriage
- **We will look at 4 Main Points in our text this morning**
 - The Purpose Behind Paul's Instruction v. 1
 - God's Principles Concerning Sex vs. 2-4
 - The Problem That Sexual Inactivity Creates v. 5
 - Walk in God's Plan For Your Life vs. 6-9

The Purpose Behind Paul's Instruction v. 1

First: To Answer Questions About Marriage & Singleness v. 1

1 Corinthians 7:1 (NKJV)

1 Now concerning the things of which you wrote to me: It is good for a man not to touch a woman.

- **1st Concerning the things of which you wrote to me:**
 - Again - 1 Corinthians 7 begins a section here Paul deals with specific questions asked him in a letter by the Corinthian Christians.
 - Apparently one of the questions the Corinthians Church asked was...
 - Is celibacy (Remaining Unmarried)

- More Spiritual than Marriage?
- Perhaps Even Celibacy in a Marriage too?
- They thought that to not engage in sex – made you more spiritual
- **2nd NOTE - I need to clarify**
 - What I mean with terms like Singleness and Celibacy
 - Celibacy refers to abstaining from Marriage but also Sex
 - See in our culture
 - If I just said singleness, today that assumes you're still sexually active....
 - Sadly even amongst Christians often
 - So when I use those terms: Celibacy or Singleness...
 - Meaning - not getting Married AND staying Sexually Pure
- **3rd Paul's Answer – Briefly**
 - Briefly Paul Answer
 - It's good for a man or a woman to have the Gift of Celibacy
 - But the Celibate state is NOT Better than marriage,
 - Remember God Created Marriage – It is Good
 - But if you have the gift of Celibacy – it is good now your whole life can be all about serving the Lord

• **Second: To Admonish Them To Avoid Sexual Sin vs. 1b-2a**

1 Corinthians 7:1 (NKJV)

1 Now concerning the things of which you wrote to me: **It is good for a man not to touch a woman.**

○ **1st It is good for a man not to touch a woman v. 1b**

▪ **1st The NIV reads “Not to Marry”**

- This is not the correct meaning of tis verse – NIV Completely got it wrong
- God Created Marriage – It’s not good for man to be alone

Genesis 2:18 (NKJV)

18 *And the LORD God said, “It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him.”*

- Marriage is the first Institution God Made –
- He designed to be a wonderful thing
- Adam – Needed a Help mate – he got

○ **2nd What “To Touch Means?”**

- The Greek for “touch” refers to an act of intimacy or to touch in a sexual way
 - This phrase was also a common Jewish idiom for sexual intimacy
 - It was used in Abimelech’s dream in Genesis 20:6

Genesis 20:6 (NKJV)

6 *And God said to him in a dream, “Yes, I know that you did this in the integrity of your heart. For I also withheld you from sinning against Me; therefore I did not let you touch her.*

- It was used of Boaz to Ruth

Ruth 2:8–9 (NKJV)

8 *Then Boaz said to Ruth, “You will listen, my daughter, will you not? Do not go to glean in another field, nor go from here, but stay close by my young women.*

9 *Let your eyes be on the field which they reap, and go after them. Have I not commanded the young men not to touch you? And when you are thirsty, go to the vessels and drink from what the young men have drawn.”*

- Proverbs Says

Proverbs 6:29 (NKJV)

29 *So is he who goes in to his neighbor’s wife; Whoever touches her shall not be innocent.*

- It MEANS –

- AKA = NO SEX
- AKA = NO Fornication – (NO Sex Before Marriage)
- Illustration – Growing Up in Rescue – Woodstove (Fire Is Good in the right place)

- **3rd Because of Sexual Immorality v. 2a**

1 Corinthians 7:2 (NKJV)

2 **Nevertheless, because of sexual immorality,** *let each man have his own wife, and let each woman have her own husband.*

- **1st Backdrop in Corinth**

- Sexual immorality was rampant in Corinth
- Roman law accepted the practice of
 - Adultery
 - Polygamy
 - Homosexuality
 - And other forms of sexually immorality
 - Marriage & Divorce was common for Roman culture

- It was common to have been married & divorced 20 or more times
- So needless to say, sexual sin was a big problem in their society and it WAS in the church
- **2nd What Paul is saying**
 - The PROPER place for Sex – Marriage
 - Marriage is defined by God as
 - One Man One Women – for life – Until Death
 - Also
 - It is appropriate for husband and wife to have each other in a sexual sense
 - We will see in a minute – do not practice Celibacy in marriage
 - He is NOT commanding the Corinthian Christians
 - To get married (an issue he deals with later in the chapter)
 - But a command to live Sexually PURE
 - Paul is NOT saying sex
 - Is the only reason for marriage
 - Marriage is SO MUCH deeper then sex
 - For more on a complete theology of marriage, see Ephesians 5:21-33 and Colossians 3:18-19.
 - **PAULS GOAL – SEXUALLY PURITY in Marriage and outside**

• **First: It Is Confined In Marriage To One Person v. 2b**

1 Corinthians 7:2 (NKJV)

2 Nevertheless, because of sexual immorality, let each man have his own wife, and let each woman have her own husband.

○ **1st Paul Instructions**

▪ **1st For Some People Sexual Temptation is NOT a Problem**

- In Matthew 19 Jesus spoke of people who had been given the gift of celibacy/singleness
- For some people sexual appetite isn't a problem
- But, either you've got this gift or you don't!
- For Men - If the sight of a pretty girl causes a man's pulse to race, and his hormones to heat up - then God hasn't blessed him with the gift of singleness...he needs a wife
- For Women - If a women goes to sleep dreaming of a Prince Charming who'll sweep her off her feet and give her a happy home - then she doesn't have the gift of singleness
- If you're "the marrying type" then its best that you marry

▪ **2nd If you have sexual desire then MARRY**

- Don't try and live a life you are NOT called to live

• **Second: It's Committed To The Loving Care Of Your Spouse v. 3**

1 Corinthians 7:3 (NKJV)

3 Let the husband render to his wife the affection due her, and likewise also the wife to her husband.

- The KJV

1 Corinthians 7:3 (KJV 1900)

3 *Let the husband render unto the wife due benevolence: and likewise also the wife unto the husband.*

- **1st Let the husband render to his wife the Affection Due her:**
 - A husband must render to his wife the affection due her.
 - It is wrong for him to withhold affection from his wife.
- **2nd And likewise also the wife to her husband:**
 - On the same idea, also the wife to her husband:
 - The wife is not to withhold marital affection from her husband.
- **3rd Paul Makes it VERY clear**
 - If your married
 - Then Affection (Sex) is to be a part of that marriage
 - Only Exception If one cant for some reason
 - The Intimacy Weapon
 - Withholding intimacy should not be used as a weapon to “get back” at the other person or get what you want.
 - When you do this, you are going down a bad path that can lead to more trouble.
- **4th Lesson – Let Talk About Affection**
 - **Affection Means**
 - A gentle feeling of fondness or liking
 - Feeling of liking and caring for someone or something : tender attachment : FONDNESS
 - Greek - (εὐνοια eunoia) from the same as 2132;

- Goodwill

- **State the Obvious**

- Men and Women have different needs
- Men - Driven by a strong sex drive
- Women – Intimacy / Affection

- **Paul also emphasizes what the woman needs**

- Not Merely Sexual Relations
 - But the Affection Due her!!!
 - Men Sex without affection – is WRONG
- Question - Scale of 1 to 10
 - Ask your wife later today
 - How I am I doing on giving affection?
 - I venture to guess – Low Scores from our wives
- Some Ways to Show Affection
 - Communication –
 - Not Business – Family Stuff – Real Honest communication – like you did when you were dating
 - Like your BEST FRIENDS Communication
 - Tenderness –
 - Touching without SEX
 - Household Cores

- Cooking, Dishes, Laundry etc...
 - I Love you Notes – Texts
 - Let them know they are on our minds
 - Complements
 - Like you did when you were dating
 - Flowers
 - Little - I love You Gifts
- **Affection**
 - Also reminds us that when a couple is unable – for physical or other reasons – to have a complete sexual relationship
 - They can still have an affectionate relationship, and thus fulfill God’s purpose for these commands.
 - Illustration- Hocking Story

• **Third: Controlled By Your Spouse v. 4**

1 Corinthians 7:4 (NKJV)

4 *The wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband does. And likewise the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife does.*

- **1st The 2 Shall Become One!!! – VERY SPECIAL BOND**

Genesis 2:24 (NKJV)

24 *Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.*

Matthew 19:5 (NKJV)

5 *and said, ‘For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh’?*

Mark 10:8 (NKJV)

8 *and the two shall become one flesh'; so then they are no longer two, but one flesh.*

Ephesians 5:31 (NKJV)

31 *"For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh."*

- Married Couples Belong to Each Other!!!
- A Special Bond – Spiritual – Yes even in a magical way
- A WHOLE LOT MORE THEN SEX
- Sex Celebrates this BOND
- God Made SEX for married people to enjoy – SO ENJOY what He has given us
- **2nd This is NOT a license to USE each Other**
 - The Wife Should never use Sex
 - To Manipulate her husband
 - To Get something She wants = Prostitution
 - The Husband never use His Wife
 - As object if his desire (she is a Person -Soul)
 - Not some object to play with as you see fit – (Evil of Pornography)

The Problem That Sexual Inactivity Creates v. 5

- **First: The Exhortation Is Simple & Clear v. 5a**

1 Corinthians 7:5 (NKJV)

5 **Do not deprive one another** *except with consent for a time, that you may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again so that Satan does not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.*

- **1st It literally means – AKA = “Stop doing it”**
 - Every married couple needs to realize sex is a tool to build with - not a weapon to fight with
 - Withhold sex as a form of punishment and you’re disobeying God
 - Use sex to reward your husband for a behavior you like, or bribe him for what you want – and that’s manipulation, not affirmation
 - That’s a cruel use of what should be an expression of committed love

● **Second: The Exception Should Be Rare v. 5b**

1 Corinthians 7:5 (NKJV)

5 Do not deprive one another except with consent for a time, that you may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again so that Satan does not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.

- **Ask yourself three questions?**
 - 1st Does your spouse agree with you?
 - Greek: sumphonou - mutual consent
 - 2nd Is the time limited?
 - Agreed upon Time
 - 3rd Is the purpose justified?
 - “That you may give yourselves to fasting and prayer”

● **Third: The Enemy Will Use It Against You v. 5c**

1 Corinthians 7:5 (NKJV)

5 Do not deprive one another except with consent for a time, that you may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again so that Satan does not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.

○ **1st TEMPTATIONS - Different between Men & Women**

- A Survey a few years back
- Why Men & Women enter into adultery
- Reasons were different.
- Most Men –
 - LUST - Passion of it
 - Attempt to experience some sexual fulfillment
 - Fulfill sexual fantasy
 - Most men are visually oriented
- Most Women it was different
 - 10% Said looking for love
 - 10% Looking for lust
 - 80% Looking for the thrill of Romance.
 - Women Romance - talk / cuddle / be romanced

Walk in God's Plan For Your Life vs. 6-9

• **First: Verse 6**

1 Corinthians 7:6 (NKJV)

6 *But I say this as a concession, not as a commandment.*

○ **1st Clear Up A Little Confusion on this Verse**

- 1st Some have taken this to mean that the apostle did not consider the foregoing words to be inspired by God.
 - Such an interpretation is NOT CORRECT

- Since he claims in 1 Corinthians 14:37 that the things which he was writing to the Corinthians were the commandments of the Lord.
- 2nd Refers to the whole idea of marriage
 - That Christians are permitted to marry but are not commanded to do so.
- 3rd That under certain circumstances, it was all right for a married couple to abstain from the marriage act
 - But that this abstinence is a permission
 - Not a commandment.
 - Christian people do not have to refrain from this act in order to give themselves undividedly to prayer.

• **Second: Verse 7**

1 Corinthians 7:7 (NKJV)

7 For I wish that all men were even as I myself. But each one has his own gift from God, one in this manner and another in that.

- **1st It's a GIFT**
 - But both singleness and marriage are GIFTS from God
 - Should be used for His glory
 - Since Paul was single that was his preference –
 - So he could focus on JUST THE LORD
 - Single – Spend ALL your Time serving the Lord

• **Third: Verse 8**

1 Corinthians 7:8 (NKJV)

8 *But I say to the unmarried and to the widows: It is good for them if they remain even as I am;*

○ **1st Question as to Paul's marital status?**

- Was he a widower?
- Or a divorcee?
- Or had he never been married?

○ **2nd Answer - Though we're not certain, there are clues**

- We also know from Acts 7 that Paul was a member of the Sanhedrin
- To sit on the Jewish Supreme Court, you had to be married and have children
- It's very likely that Paul was married with kids at one time – but upon his conversion to Christ, his wife deserted him
- Even Today
 - In some Orthodox Jewish homes today if a family member becomes a Christian they hold a religious funeral
 - The Christian convert is divorced from the community, stripped of his inheritance, and considered dead
 - This might've happened to Paul
- However - he got there, Paul was single - yet he knows it's not for everyone
 - He was going to use that singleness to SERVE JESUS

• **Fourth: Verse 9**

1 Corinthians 7:9 (NKJV)

9 *but if they cannot exercise self-control, let them marry. For it is better to marry than to burn with passion.*

- **1st If they cannot exercise self-control, let them marry:**
 - Paul recognizes marriage as a legitimate refuge from pressures of sexual immorality.
 - One should not feel they are immature or unspiritual because they desire to get married so they will no longer burn with passion.

Closing

- **First: Marriage is DEEPER than SEX**

- **1st A Godly Successful and healthy marriage Needs**
 - 1st Jesus as The Foundation
 - Centers around Him
 - 2nd Communication
 - Good Open Communication - LISTEN
 - 3rd Self - Sacrificing Love
 - Your NEEDS take a back seat to the other person
- **2nd When sex is the focus in getting married - these things are missing**
 - 1st Christ is not the foundation
 - Your Flesh is
 - 2nd Communication
 - Is not happening
 - Couples in get involved sexually before marriage usually have communication problems
 - 3rd There is no self-sacrificing love going on

- Instead lust is the focus
- But sex before marriage is purely a selfish love - seeking to fulfill my needs and wants
- 4th Learn Self Control

Galatians 5:22–23 (NKJV)

22 *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,*
23 *gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.*

1 Thessalonians 4:3–7 (NKJV)

3 *For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you should abstain from sexual immorality;*
4 *that each of you should know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor,*
5 *not in passion of lust, like the Gentiles who do not know God;*
6 *that no one should take advantage of and defraud his brother in this matter, because the Lord is the avenger of all such, as we also forewarned you and testified.*
7 *For God did not call us to uncleanness, but in holiness.*

• **Second: Married Couples**

- 1st First: Keep your focus on Jesus – Foundation
- 2nd Die To Yourself
- 3rd Show Affection to One and Other –
- 4th Sex is Used to keep that Bond – Celebrate it – its not JUST PHYSICAL there is a Spiritual side to it

• **Third: Singles**

- **1st If you have the gift to be Single**
 - Serve the Lord with ALL you MIGHT
- **2nd If you Don't have the GIFT to be Single**

- 1st Seek the Lord – Pray
- 2nd Until God Answers that Prayer – Focus on SERVING JESUS
- 3rd Do not Settle – Because of your flesh – NEVER God's Will to marry a non- believer
- 4th God is FAITHFUL – He will provide in His TIME