

Church Gone Wild: Week 7

Married & Single

1 Corinthians 7
Pastor Derek Vreeland

The Issue: Sex or No Sex?

1 Corinthians 7:1-2

"It is good for a man not to have sexual relations with a woman" was the church's statement in their letter to Paul and not Paul's position on the subject.

"To have your own wife/husband" is a euphemism for sex.

The answer to a sexually explicit culture is not *lifetime abstinence* because sex is bad, but rather *lifetime marriage* where sex is good.

A Theology of Sex in Marriage

1 Corinthians 7:3-4

- 1) Sex is a mutual experience.
- 2) Sex is a martial right.
- 3) You give control of your body over to your spouse.

How do we begin to apply this?

- 1) Talk about your sex life with your spouse and make mutual decisions.
- 2) You have the right to *give* sex, not to *demand* sex.
 - a. Men: Sex is not your right, but your reward.
 - b. Women: Sex is not your weapon, but your reward.
- 3) Talk to your spouse about your appearance.

1 Corinthians 7:5

Literally: "stop depriving one another"

It was a church gone wild.

Some people were sleeping with their step mom or sleeping with prostitutes. Other married couples in the church had stopped having sex altogether as a way to combat sexually immorality.

Singleness & Celibacy

1 Corinthians 7:6-9

- 1) Singleness may be preferable in some situations, but it is not a command.
- 2) It is not more spiritual or less spiritual to remain single.
- 3) Singleness (which includes celibacy) is a gift.
- 4) If you are burning with sexual passion, then singleness may not be your gift.
- 5) If you desire to have sex, get married first.

Marriage & Divorce

1 Corinthians 7:10-11

- 1) Marriage is a lifetime covenant.
- 2) God hates divorce because divorce is always painful.
- 3) "Should not separate" doesn't mean "cannot separate."
- 4) God also hates judgmental, self-righteous, arrogant Christians who judge those who have gone through a divorce.

Married to an Unbeliever

1 Corinthians 7:12-13

- 1) If you are considering marrying an unbeliever, the best advice is...don't.
- 2) If you are married to an unbeliever, the best advice is to stay married.

1 Corinthians 7:14

If you remain faithful to your marriage vows as an act of worship, you are setting your unbelieving spouse apart and putting them in a place where they can see Jesus.

1 Corinthians 7:15-16

If they want to divorce you, then let them go. However, if you stay married to them and pray for them, they may come to follow Jesus.

1 Corinthians 7:17-24

Stay where you are called unless God calls you away or sin drives you away.

Singles Wanting to Get Married

1 Corinthians 7:25

"The betrothed" or "the virgins" refer to people who have not been married and are thinking about marriage.

- 1) There is no command here for singles to get married or stay single.
- 2) The command from Genesis is to "be fruitful and multiply."
- 3) If God has not given you the gift of singleness, then you should consider marriage.

1 Corinthians 7:26-27

Can you imagine trying to raise a family in a time of severe persecution?

1 Corinthians 7:28

- 1) If you remain single, you are not sinning.
- 2) If you get married, you will find trouble.

Paul's Reasons for Remaining Single

1 Corinthians 7:29-31

"Appointed time" is a reference to a specific time or season and not an exact duration of time. He is not saying that the end of time is near, but that this season of their lives is coming to an end, which was true. The temple in Jerusalem was destroyed in 70 AD and religious tolerance as known in Rome ended.

1 Corinthians 7:32-34

Being married is great...most of the time.

Men are anxious in trying to please their wives.
Wives are anxious in trying to please their husbands.

1 Corinthians 7:35

Devotion to God is a higher priority than marriage.

On Getting Married

1 Corinthians 7:36

Often when people pray about getting married, they do not get clear directions from the Lord.

Here is some helpful advice:

- 1) Continue to ask God for direction
- 2) Get advice from older people you trust
- 3) Talk to married people
- 4) Examine how far the physical side of your relationship has progressed
- 5) Consider the time -- "if she is getting along in years" (NIV)
 - a. Are we emotionally mature enough to get married?
 - b. Is this the best time to get married at this point in our lives?
 - c. Would getting married now help or hinder me in reaching my goals?
- 6) After all other considerations, do what seems right in your heart

1 Corinthians 7:37-38

Whether you get married or not you will be alright.

1 Corinthians 7:39-40

Ultimately, we need the guidance of the Holy Spirit.



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