

About Marriage I

I Cor 7: 1-24

7/1/01

Intro



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Apparently, the leaders of the church at Corinth had written Paul a letter requesting he answer several important and practical matters about how to live as Christians.

Some had come to the conclusion that in order to live holy before the Lord, it was best to not have any sexual relations at all, even with their spouse.

When we read Paul's response, we, too, get to learn the very practical lessons he intended for them.

Here we learn about God's heart about marriage and relationships.

I. Insights into marriage.

Vs 1-2 A. Marriage is God's answer to immoralities.

- Though this is not the only reason for marriage.

B. Therefore, let each fulfill their "duty" to each other.

Vs 3

- We don't like the word "duty."

Illus- What if we had a begrudging attitude with the Lord in fulfilling our duties?

- This is our ministry to each other.

C. Neither has authority over their bodies.

- Notice that it is completely mutual regarding sexual things in marriage.
- The husband does not have the only authority here.

D. Do not deprive one another.

- It is our ministry to our spouse.
- Except for a time of prayer, but only of it's by mutual agreement.
- The marriage should be an example of Christ and the church.

II. Insights into singleness.

Vs 7 A. Lifetime singleness is a gift of God.

- It should be considered if God directs.
- Singleness allows complete devotion to the Lord.

B. It is better to marry than to burn.

Vs 9

- With sexual desire and frustration.

- This doesn't mean a single person should rush out and get married.

Illus- God should be the One that brings a spouse. I remember when Jordi prayed for me before we even met.

- C. The time of being single is a unique opportunity to grow on the Lord.

Illus- I remember when I was single and really wanted to be married, yet I knew it was an opportunity to really grow as a person.

III. About separation.

- A. Marriage is sacred before the Lord and therefore He hates divorce.
 - Therefore, Paul says to be reconciled or stay single.
 - Of course, Jesus told us that sexual immorality is the only biblical cause for divorce.
- B. What if you're married to an unbeliever?
 - If he/she wants to stay let them stay.
 - If they want to leave, let them leave, you're not bound in such cases.

Vs 13

Illus- It's good to know the scriptures. One person left her husband because she thought the scripture told her not to be unequally yoked.

- C. The unbelieving spouse is sanctified by the believing one.
 - Meaning that you're not unclean by staying married.
- D. Who knows, you might win your spouse to Christ.
- E. Let each one remain in the position in which he was called.

Conclusion

These topics are very, very personal. But the most important question is whether we will allow God to be in control of the deepest issues we face.

Will we allow God's word to impact our marriage, even our marriage bed, our singleness, and our decisions about marriage and divorce?