

"WHEN GOD WRITES YOUR LOVE STORY"

I Corinthians 7:1-7

I. INTRODUCTION:

- A. Christ's first institution from the beginning: *(See Mt. 19:3-6; Gen. 2-3)*
 - 1. Christ's detailed pairings: *(Gen. 1:27; 2:24; II Cor. 6:14-17)*
 - 2. Christ's fellowship trumping the garden. *(Gen. 2:15; 3:8)*
 - 3. Christ's protection and His enablement: *(Ex. 20:3-7; Eph. 5:18-33)*
- B. The fallacy of asking Christ to bless a union we create:
 - 1.
 - 2.
- C. Church leadership anchored in Christ-centered marriages:
 - 1.
 - 2.

II. BOUNDARIES FOR THE BEAUTIFUL, PHYSICAL UNION OF MARRIAGE:

- A. Biblically following Christ's mandates: **v. 1**
 - 1.
 - 2.
- B. Biblical pleasure within God's boundaries: **v.2**
 - 1. The pleasure within boundaries: *(Gen. 2:24-25; Pro. 5:15-20; Song of Sol. 4:8-5:1)*
 - 2. The "defrauding" outside God's boundaries: *(I Thes. 4:1-8)* **(See back)**
- C. Biblical truth for those already married: **vv. 3-6**
 - 1. Contextual limitations: *(7:1, 25; 8:1; 12:1; 15:1; 16:1)*
 - 2. Clarifying quotations: **v. 6** *(Mt. 19:1-12; 5:31-32; Mk. 10:1-12; Lk. 16:18)*
 - 3. Two commands: **v. 4**
 - a.
 - b.
 - 4. One exception clause: **v. 5**
- D. Biblical conclusions on marriage: **v. 7**
 - 1. It is better to be single than to be married if –
 - 2. It is better to be married if –

The point – "The ideal is to be in the center of God's will for your life. Marriage was never intended by God to be a lesser of two evils: but rather one of several safeguards against evil." C. Swindoll

III. PRINCIPLES TO PERSONALLY APPLY:

(Together becoming "people of the Word" in principle AND in practice)

- A.
- B.
- C.

LUST

Lust: Taking something God created for pleasure, outside His boundaries.

Lust: The lure of lust (Self-indulgence): To lust is to want what you don't have and weren't meant to have. Lust wants to go outside God's guidelines to find satisfaction. Lust grasps for, with your eyes, heart, imagination, or body, what God has said no to. Although lust longs for an object or a person, ultimately this object is not its prize; its goal is the very act of desiring. The result is that lust can never be quenched. As soon as the object of lust is attained, lust wants something more. Lust longs for the forbidden and is willing to take you deeper and farther into perversion than you ever dreamed to go, if you will indulge its latest request.

Lust is always based on the same lie – that satisfaction will be found apart from God. It is the defining struggle of this generation and the central ingredient for a miserable earthly existence. When you choose to lust, you actively reject God. Though the source of lust is your own evil desires, the one who is offended is God. When you choose to lust, you actively reject God. The very nature of lust is to rebel against God.

The only way to be victorious over lust is to believe with your whole heart that God is against your lust not because He is opposed to pleasure, but because He is so committed to it. It is absolutely vital to remember that when God says no to something, it is because He is saying yes to something that will be far better for you. The fire of lust's pleasures must be fought with the fires of God's pleasures.

SINNERS PRAYER

Dear Heavenly Father, I was made by you and I was made for you, but I have been living for myself. I am sorry for that self-rule you call sin. I believe that Jesus Christ being my creator God, died, was buried, and rose again to pay the insurmountable debt that my sin has created since birth. So right now, I am turning from a life of going my own way, to by faith, place my trust in Jesus Christ, to pay the debt of all my sin, and to get me to heaven, when I breath my last breath. Lord Jesus, from today on, I am yours. Thanks for saving me, this very moment, in Jesus name, amen.