

1 CORINTHIANS SEX

1 Cor 6:12-7:9

7:1 CORINTHIANS SEX (1 Corinthians 6:12-7:9)

SEX - a word that attracts attention; a word that's threaded throughout our culture; a topic that people are quick to turn their ears to, while the church is slow to speak about. **SEX is God's invention** and we **NEED** to hear what God says on the subject.

beourguest

Thanks so much for joining us today! Please register your visit using this CR Code **Connect Card** →

CONNECT CARD



teachingnotes

Follow today's teaching notes on your digital device (**wi-fi: Worship Center Guest**).

1. **Open phone camera** & zoom in on the **QR code pic to the right**. **OPEN** our VISUAL NOTES.
2. Access PDF notes to teachings from: **bit.ly/PDFNotes**
3. Watch **FB Live & see teaching notes** on our FB page: **facebook.com/fellowshipofmadison**
4. Check out our webpage: **FOM.life** (including over 500 teachings - audio & video).

VISUAL NOTES



If Jesus has it right, if the Scriptures are trustworthy, then...

SEX is God's INVENTION & MARRIAGE is God's INTENTION.

We **NEED** to hear what God says on the subject. So did the Christians in Corinth, a city overrun with sexual temptations. The temple of **Aphrodite** was the Greek goddess of sexual love and her temple housed hundreds of prostitutes. "To Corinthianize" or to "act like a Corinthian" meant to practice sexual activity outside of marriage. "Corinthian girls" was a phrase used throughout Greece for **prostitutes**. People who lived in Corinth had to deal with the constant commercialism of sex. Paul must now confront this *mess* impacting this church.

Corinthian Slogans and Christian Responses

1 Corinthians 6:12 (CSB)

"Everything is permissible for me," but not everything is beneficial. "Everything is permissible for me," but I will not be mastered by anything. "Food is for the stomach and the stomach for food," and God will do away with both of them. However, **the body is not for sexual immorality but for the Lord**, and the Lord for the body.

Freedom to do whatever we want to do, doesn't mean everything we choose will be beneficial for us. Living in 'freedom' to do anything and everything can actually lead to slavery to sin. The follower of Jesus should **not be mastered by anything** except Jesus Christ. For Christians, freedom does not mean anarchy, but responsibility.

Food is necessity **for the stomach**, and the stomach is a necessity for food - they are created for each other. And although **God will do away with both of them** (physical death), they are necessary on this side of eternity. But until then, people have the freedom to eat & enjoy what we want.

- Some of the Corinthians likely used this phrase to implying that SEX is a necessity for the body. As the stomach craves food and must be satisfied, so the body craves sex and must be satisfied. The Corinthians lived in a culture that would allow for sexual immorality because, "It's natural".
- Sex inside the marriage relationship is a great gift, but sex is NOT a necessity for life. If you don't eat, you will die. The same is NOT true if you don't have sex...you will NOT die. But people in their day like people in OUR day...who act like sex is a necessity to life, even if you're not married.

Sexual relationships outside of marriage (man and woman) is **sexual immorality** - forbidden for the follower of Jesus. **The body is not for sexual immorality but for the Lord**. God created our bodies to honor Him! Further, **the Lord is for the body** - our bodies are to house the presence of the Lord.

1 Corinthians 6:14-15a (CSB)

God raised up the Lord and will also raise us up by his power. Don't you know that **your bodies are a part of Christ's body?**

Unless Jesus returns in our lifetime, our bodies will die. BUT...just as Father **God raised up the Lord** Jesus, He **will also raise us up by his power!** And while we're alive, **our bodies are a part of Christ's body.** Where we go, what we say, how we act and react, should demonstrate that we are a family of followers living in the purity and passion of Jesus.

Unimaginable Stomach-Churning Imagery

1 Corinthians 6:15b-17 (CSB)

So should I take a part of Christ's body and make it part of a prostitute? Absolutely not! Don't you know that anyone joined to a prostitute is one body with her? For Scripture says, *The two will become one flesh.* But **anyone joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him.**

This is gross! Jesus sleeping with a prostitute? **Absolutely not!** Yet, if we belong to Jesus and our bodies are an extension of His body, and we use it for sexual sin...then part of His body is involved. Followers of Jesus should never be joined sexually to anyone except our marriage partner. Why? Because **we are joined to the Lord** and we are **one of spirit with Him!**

❓ **What are we to do when tempted by sexual sin?**

Run Away from Sexual Sin!

1 Corinthians 6:18 (CSB)

Flee sexual immorality! Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the person who is sexually immoral sins against his own body.

We aren't to see how close we can get to the edge without falling off. We are to **flee sexual immorality.** Get out of there! Run so far away that it we aren't even in the presence of the temptation any more!

✓ If you're serious about obeying Jesus, ask for His help, ask for the help of other brothers/sisters. Get honest! STOP going to that website! Stop going to that place! Stop hanging out with that person! Stop making the excuse that you can't help yourself or find others to help!

✗ Some say, "Sin is sin. It's all the same." *Not really.* Paul says sexual sin is different from other sin - it's **sin against your own body.** Sexual memories, shame, damaged relationships, pregnancy, and even disease.

Glorify God With Your Body!

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 (CSB)

Don't you know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for **you were bought at a price.** So glorify God with your body.

If you belong to Jesus, then **the Holy Spirit is IN you!** The most holy place on the planet is inside of us!

Because you belong to Jesus, **you are not your own** anymore. The Christian who claims, "It's my body and I'll do what I want to" is WRONG! It's NOT your body anymore. **You were bought at a price** - the death of the Lord Jesus! You are commanded by the King who owns you, to **glorify God with your body.**

❓ Are you doing anything to harm the body you are supposed to glorify God with?

SEX is God's INVENTION & MARRIAGE is God's INTENTION.

Sex and Marriage

1 Corinthians 7:1-2 (CSB)

Now in response to the matters you wrote about: "It is good for a man not to have sexual relations with a woman." But because sexual immorality is so common, **each man should have sexual relations with his own wife,** and **each woman should have sexual relations with her own husband.**

While some of the Corinthians were participating in sexual immorality outside of marriage, some married couples had stopped making time for **sexual relations** at all. Maybe they came to the false conclusion that others have come to, that sex is only for **procreation** (making babies).

GOD INVENTED SEX

- **SEX is for PROCREATION.** God told Adam and Eve to *“be fruitful and multiply”* (Gen 1:28). Sex IS for PROCREATION, but God intended it to be much more than that.
- **SEX is for PARTNERSHIP.**

Gen 2:24 “This is why a man leaves his father and mother and bonds with his wife, and they become one flesh.”

Mark 10:8b-9 “So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate.”

1 Corinthians 7:3-4 (CSB)

A husband should fulfill his marital duty to his wife, and likewise a wife to her husband. A wife does not have the right over her own body, but her husband does. In the same way, a husband does not have the right over his own body, but his wife does.

- **SEX is for PLEASURE.** Paul doesn't say anything here about making babies. This is about fulfilling sexual desires TOGETHER. It is obvious that SEX is a good gift from God, intended for pleasure in the marriage relationship.

Proverbs 5:18-19 “Let your fountain be blessed, and take pleasure in the wife of your youth...be lost in her love forever.”

✓ Husbands and wives belong to one another and try to out-serve one another. A husband should treat his wife with love, gentleness, and care. A wife should treat her husband the same way.

✗ Spouses should NEVER do anything to harm or embarrass one another. Never incorporate images, words, or actions that would dishonor one another OR dishonor the Lord because...

- **SEX is for PURITY.** Many people never think of SEX as PURE, but inside the marriage relationship, it is.

Gen 2:25 Both the man and his wife were **naked**, yet felt **no shame**.

Heb 13:4 **Marriage is to be honored by all and the marriage bed kept undefiled**, because God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterers.”

- **SEX is for PROTECTION.**

1 Corinthians 7:5 (NET)

Do not deprive each other, except by mutual agreement for a specified time, so that you may devote yourselves to prayer. **Then resume your relationship, so that Satan may not tempt you** because of your lack of self-control.

With the exception of illness or physical limitation, spouses should **not deprive each another** of sexual fulfillment. (NEVER use sex as a tool to manipulate one another.)

The couple might decide together to spend time in the intimacy of **prayer** rather than the intimacy of sex. But this sexual ‘time out’ should not last long, and the couple should **resume** the sexual **relationship**. Otherwise, a spouse might be **tempted** by **Satan** to seek satisfaction outside the marriage relationship.

To Marry or Not to Marry?

1 Corinthians 7:6-9 (CSB)

I say this as a concession, not as a command. I wish that all people were as I am. But each has his own gift from God, one person has this gift, another has that. I say to the unmarried and to widows: It is good for them if they remain as I am. But if they do not have self-control, **they should marry**, since it **is better to marry than to burn with desire**.

Paul does not **command** people to get married, only those who desire to get married or those who can't control their sexual desires. God gives some the **gift** of celibacy, with no desire for marriage. Paul later communicates how singleness has advantages too - being able to leave to share the gospel without having to check in at home.

If couples can't control their sexual desires, **they should marry**, because...

SEX is God's INVENTION & MARRIAGE is God's INTENTION.

② What does God want you to do with what you heard today?

heretoserveyou

Have questions and need some help? ...real soon...how about now? Please **call** or **text** us soon!

* Contact **Jackie** (850-673-1582), **Christy** (850-673-9764), or another follower of Jesus soon!

* Or call our **deacons & wives**: Alan & Christy Androski (850-464-1428), Freddy & Joyce Howard (850-973-0047), Tim & Joni Hughey (850-464-1156), Mark & Dot Mancil (850-253-5405), Boss & Amelia Mulkey (850-464-6717), Jim & Derita Pinkard (850-464-6188), or Tom & Martha Waddail (850-973-0011).

discussionquestions

Take some time to discuss these questions with your family, friends, or group.

1. What challenged or encouraged you most from today's teaching? Explain your answer.
2. Why is it that churches often don't spend time talking about what God says about sex, positively or negatively? Does it surprise you, concern you, or encourage you to know that the Bible has a lot of say about sex? Explain your answer.
3. **Read 1 Cor 6:14-17.** Have you ever thought of your body as being a part of Jesus? Why do you think that Paul uses this gross imagery of Jesus being sexually involved with a prostitute?
4. **Read 1 Cor 6:18-20.** What are some reasons why we should run from sexual sin? How is sexual sin different than other sins? How significant is it that Jesus bought you at a price and that the Holy Spirit lives in you? Why should those 2 facts challenge us to walk in spiritual purity?
5. Discuss the 5 reasons why God invented sex for marriage (procreation, partnership, pleasure, purity, protection) - you might want to go back and look at your notes. What most surprises or encourages you about God's intention for sex.
6. What other questions has this teaching or discussion prompted for us to talk about?
7. **Share prayer needs and pray for one another.** Continue to pray for our Supreme Court decision on Roe v Wade. Pray for Christians in Ukraine and Russia to carry the message of Jesus with them wherever they go. Also, PRAY that God will greatly use us to impact people who need to follow Jesus.