



**COMMUNITY
CHURCH**

Offer Hope. Grow in Community. Be the Church.

May 16, 2021

1 Corinthians 7:1-16: Married Life

“Now for the matters you wrote about...” (1 Corinthians 7:1)

List of possible questions:

- Should we pursue finding a wife or a husband?
- How far can we go with our girlfriends before it's sin?
- What should I do if I'm single, and I have tons and tons of sexual temptation?
- Are lots of partners and prostitutes (the norm for Corinth) okay for believers?
- How much physical intimacy should we have in marriage?
- What is my role in physical intimacy as a wife in marriage?
- What is MORE HOLY – being single or being married?
- What should I do if my husband is not a believer in Jesus?

(Can we buy meat in the marketplace that was used for false worship? How should we understand the speaking in tongues?...)

Read 1 Corinthians 7:1-16

Should we pursue finding a wife or a husband?

*What I mean, brothers and sisters, is that the time is short.
(1 Corinthians 7:29)*

“The apostle tells the Corinthians that it was good, in that juncture of time, for Christians to keep themselves single. Yet he says that marriage, and the comforts of that state, are settled by Divine wisdom. Though none may break the law of God, yet that perfect rule leaves men at liberty to serve him in the way most suited to their powers and circumstances, of which others often are very unfit judges. All must determine for themselves, seeking counsel from God how they ought to act.” (Matthew Henry)

What about sexual relations within marriage?

Awkward is Awesome!

*...each man **should have** sexual relations with his own wife, and each woman with her own husband. The husband **should fulfill** his marital duty to his wife, and likewise the wife to her husband. The wife does not have authority over her own body but yields it to her husband. In the same way, the husband does not have authority over his own body but yields it to his wife. **Do not deprive** each other except perhaps by mutual consent and for a time, so that you may devote yourselves to prayer. Then come together again so that Satan will not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.*
(1 Corinthians 7:2-5)

1. One of my responsibilities in marriage is to be a blessing to my spouse in physical intimacy. Find out what would be a blessing to your spouse's needs and pursue those. (NOT – “Hey, the Bible says you belong to me!”)
2. You are never to withhold sex as a power-play, punishment, or just because you are not personally interested.
3. Regular physical intimacy is a CRAZY blessing to a marriage and it is the main medicine against sexual immorality. What does regular physical intimacy mean?

For the married, “till death do us part.”

What should I do if my husband/wife is not a believer in Jesus?

Stick with it...

*For the unbelieving husband has been **sanctified** through his wife, and the unbelieving wife has been **sanctified** through her believing husband. Otherwise your children would be unclean, but as it is, they are **holy**. (1 Corinthians 7:14)*

Parents:

1. Be faithful unto God. You don't have to be perfect or be a master of the Scriptures. Keep from sin. Attend church and fellowship. Study God's Word and serve others.
2. Help us be a caring church. Our city is filled with lonely, wounded hurting people. We need to reach out and be a family for those without one.
3. Make your house the place to be. Let it be open where your kid's friends can come play games, hang out, be encouraged, and loved.
4. Pray, pray and pray some more.

HOME GROUP questions for 1 Corinthians 7:1-16...

1. What should the sexual relationship between a husband and a wife look like in a healthy and God-pleasing marriage? What is the reasoning behind this that Paul gives?
 - Ephesians 5:21-33
2. What is Paul talking about in v. 5? How can an intentional pause in the physical relationship between husband and wife be spiritually beneficial, and what are the dangers of allowing this pause to last too long?
3. Why do you think Paul would prefer that everyone be single as he is? When is it best for those unmarried to remain that way, and when should they get married instead?
4. What instructions does Paul have in vs. 12-16 for those married to unbelievers? How can those married to unbelievers help to show them Jesus in their life together?