



## DISCUSSION GUIDE

**Sermon Series:** Welcome to Corinth, Part 9

**Sermon Title:** It's About Great Sex

**Speaker/ Date:** Armin Sommer/ November 11, 2018

### 1 Corinthians 7:1-9

Corinth had a loose reputation. It was home to a massive temple to Aphrodite, the goddess of erotic love. Their “worship” employed several thousand temple prostitutes (men and women) whose earnings supported the cult of Aphrodite. The Roman Empire coined its own slang word for sexual immorality: *kwrinqiazomai* (corinthiazomai), to live like a Corinthian.

Big idea? **We are to celebrate sex as part of the lifelong marriage of a man and a woman.**

Paul accordingly offers several directives.

**Directive #1: Avoid All Sexual Activity Outside of Biblical Marriage**  
**1 Corinthians 7:1**

He's talking about sexual activity outside marriage, which was considered normal. He offers this command for couple reasons.

1. **Your sexual experiences and the associated images follow you throughout your life.**
2. **If you're a Christ-follower, then your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit (1 Cor 6:19). Jesus lives in you. So every time you have sex outside biblical marriage, you're making Jesus a participant in your sexual experiences.**

We are to celebrate sex as part of the lifelong marriage of a man and a woman. Consequently, we are to avoid all sexual activity outside of a biblical marriage.

**Directive #2: Regularly pursue sexual activity inside your marriage.**  
**1 Corinthians 7:2-4**

Sex is wonderful. The best way to experience it is for a husband and wife to become the exclusive student of the other in the safety and comfort of the marriage bed. Your duty is not just to have sex, but to learn what most

fulfills the other. We yield our bodies to one another to deepen, renew, and enrich our covenant relationship. But Paul teaches that sexual activity is neither recreational nor casual. It is a covenantal act that binds people together.

**Genesis 2:24** That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh. The Hebrew word rendered “united” means to be “glued together.” Which points to why premarital sex falls outside of God’s plan. Premarital sex prematurely establishes a covenantal relationship that, if broken, inflicts painful damage.

There are times when it’s appropriate for a couple to refrain from sex. But it should be strictly temporary and by mutual agreement. **1 Corinthians 7:5**  
2 primary reasons.

1. When you agree to abstain as a part of fasting and prayer.
2. Sometimes life just happens and there are too many distractions, health concerns, or stressful life circumstances.

Those times should be brief. To purposefully deprive your spouse of a fulfilling sex life is to make them a target of the tempter.

God invented sex. It is not shameful, but blessed. God uses it to strengthen marriages.

We are to celebrate sex as part of the lifelong marriage of a man and a woman. Paul next addresses the issue of singleness. **1 Corinthians 7:6–9**

### III. Pursue Marriage If You Don’t Have “The Gift of Singleness”

Paul refers to celibacy as a gift. He uses the term χάρισμα (*charisma*), from which we get the word, *charismatic*. It means “a gift given by grace”. It is a spiritual gift whereby God imparts a supernatural degree of contentment to remain single. It then frees a person to focus on ministry without the distraction of a spouse and family duties.

If you long to marry, get your friends and small group members to pray for you. It’s ok also to utilize technology to search for someone. But I also urge you to leverage your current state for the glory of God.

If you’re going to be sexually active, choose godly actions and **ONLY** join your soul with the man or woman with whom you have established your marriage vows AND COVENANT BOND in the presence of God and witnesses. May God bless and enrich your marriage bed!

### **Discussion Questions:**

- **What about the sermon stuck with you this week? What part challenged your thinking?**
- **Does this topic make you uncomfortable? If so-why?**
- **Some experts predict that in the US 42%-45% of marriages will end in divorce. What do you think is the leading cause behind this?**
- **Do you think the pervasive availability of pornography in our culture had a negative effect on marital intimacy? Explain why or why not**
- **Movies, television, and other forms of media promote pre and extra-marital sex. How are those same values received when they are practiced in the real world?**
- **Do you think society secretly respects or mocks couples who have been married many years and are sexually faithful to each other?**
- **Paul calls singleness a gift. Do most of the single people you know view their own singleness as a gift? How are they using their singleness to glorify God?**