



Understand Your Options

Week of Nov. 7th
1 Cor. 7:1-9

When some of the Corinthians misunderstood God's design for human sexuality, the apostle Paul teaches them about biblical marriage and the priority that should be given to the sexual relationship between husband and wife. This is not to say, however, that all should pursue marriage; the apostle himself was single and encourages those like him to remain single if they can.

1. Read 1 Corinthians 7:1 – Paul was responding to questions the Corinthians had asked in previous communication. Some of the church had mistakenly over-corrected Paul's rebuke against sexual immorality and thought that any sexual activity was wrong, even within marriage. Have you seen other examples of Christians over-correcting? If so, in what ways?
2. Read 1 Corinthians 7:2-5. Here Paul explains why sex within marriage is very good.
 - What reasons does Paul give to why husbands and wives should be enjoying sex within their marriage?
 - What is significant about the one flesh union? (see Gen 2:23-25 & Eph. 5:32)
 - In what ways can taking on the biblical perspective of "I owe you" instead of "you owe me" change our perspectives and actions in marriage?
3. Read 1 Corinthians 7:6-9. Here Paul speaks to the value of singleness and how he wishes more people could be single and free to serve God solely, as he was. Paul unpacks this later in the chapter and we will dive into it further in a couple weeks.
 - In what ways can singleness (even for a season) be a gift?
 - In what ways can singleness be a struggle?
 - What could it look like for singles to enjoy the gift of singleness (while they are single) and still long for marriage?
4. In what ways do you see the beautiful diversity of the church played out with having married couples, families and singles? In what ways can married people be a gift to singles and singles be a gift to married people?

In your breakout groups (men & women separately) share how God is using this passage to challenge your thinking, attitudes and actions. Spend time praying for one another as you seek to live out this radical calling.

For resources on the living out this radical calling in marriage and singleness...

<https://woodmenvalley.org/relationshipresources>

NOTES:

OTHER RESOURCES

READY TO GO DEEPER?

New Testament Reading

Many of us started this reading plan on Oct. 1st. If you haven't jumped in yet, it's not too late.

Here's the specific passages for this week. You can find all the details for the reading plan and an optional podcast that explains each day's reading at www.woodmenvalley.org/bible

Join us on your Woodmen campus FB page to hear what people are sharing about what they are learning.

Nov. 7th – Matt 24
Nov. 8th – Matt 25
Nov. 9th – Matt 26, Mark 14
Nov. 10th – Luke 22, John 13
Nov. 11th – John 14-17
Nov. 12th – Matt 27, Mark 15
Nov. 13th – Luke 23, John 18-19

As you read or listen, consider the following...

- What do I learn about God and His character?
 - What do I learn about His heart for unity?
 - What promises can you cling to?
- What is He encouraging you to believe, think or do?

Outside our Walls

Being Love & Light

During this season, we have a chance to serve alongside of our group or family or friends and bring love and joy to many who are hurting in this season.

Take time to pray and plan for how you will serve this season. You can sign up for Thanksgiving baskets, bell ringing, and Gift of Love right here...

<https://woodmenvalley.org/holidayserving>

DIVE IN ON YOUR OWN TO GET READY FOR NEXT WEEKEND

Pursue Permanence

1 Corinthians 7:10-16