



# “Singleness, Marriage, Divorce, & Life!”

## 1 Corinthians Chapter 7

### (v1-2) DON'T TOUCH!

*Go for God!*

(v1) The word *touch* comes from the Greek root word *haptoo* - *to fasten to, make adhere to; hence, specifically to fasten fire to a thing, to kindle, set on fire, of carnal intercourse with a woman, or cohabitation.*

(v2) First, notice that the man is to marry a woman; a woman is to marry a man, not homosexuality. Second, the man is to have one wife, not polygamy.

- Christians are to abstain from “*sexual immorality*,” whereas, their goal would be to prepare and save themselves for that special someone that God has designed for them.

- Insight for single believers and relationships is found in 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8.

### (v3-4) DO TOUCH!

(v3) Believers at Corinth went from one extreme to the other, some had to be disciplined because of sexual immorality, while others in the marriage relationship thought that abstaining from sexual relations would put them into a higher spiritual standing with God. Paul corrects this misnomer.

- A truly happy and fulfilled marriage is one that is “*fruitful and multiplying.*”

- Contemplate the various Bible versions NKJV – “*let the husband render to his wife the affection due her;*” KJV says, “*due benevolence,*” NIV – “*The husband should fulfill his marital duty to his wife, and likewise the wife to her husband,*” New Living Translation – “*The husband should fulfill his wife's sexual needs, and the wife should fulfill her husband's needs.*”

- Refusing sexual relations in marriage is never to be used as a form of retaliation. Sexual relations need to be regular, respectful, and rewarding for both people.

- Healthy sexual relations start with time together, positive communication, warm affection, and planning; spur of the moment is good, but regularity is better.

(v4) In regard to each spouse having “*authority*” over the others body, in other words you are “*one flesh*” (Gen. 2:23-25) desiring to BLESS one another in spirit and body.

### (v5-6) TOUCHY SUBJECTS!

(v5-6) The term “*do not deprive*” is literally “*stop depriving one another.*” When does a married couple deprive one another for a brief period?

When they desire to draw CLOSER to the Lord through prayer and fasting, denying themselves of physical pleasures.

Or maybe a very important **DECISION** needs to be made and you are dedicating yourself to God, whereas to hear his voice and to know His will.

Or maybe it's a time of **REPENTANCE** through fasting and prayer, examining oneself according to the Scriptures to see if you are living and loving one another as a godly husband or a godly wife.

I would like to encourage you to read Colossians Ch. 3 (regarding basic Christian living).

I Corinthians 13:4-8 (regarding true Christian love); Matthew Ch. 5 – 7 (for the right attitude); Ephesians Ch. 5 (for the roles of a husband and wife); James Ch. 3 (for communication); Song of Solomon (for romance).

- Always set a time limit to this time of separation lest Satan tempt you!

### **(v7-9) SENSITIVE TOUCH!**

(v7-8) It's believed that Paul was single at this time, possibly a widower. Before his salvation Paul was a member of the Jewish Sanhedrin of which one needed to be married. But we have no mention of his wife throughout the Scriptures, yet he writes with experienced knowledge regarding marriage subjects. Paul is encouraging the unmarried and widows to take advantage of the extra time they have as singles to share the gospel and make disciples.

(v9) However, it's better to marry than to burn with passion! If you know you're not called to singleness then **PREPARE** yourself for marriage, the best way to discover Mr. or Mrs. Right is to be Mr. or Mrs. Right!

- **Basic questions to be answered before developing a relationship:**

Do they confess Christ? Do they have a testimony? Do they witness Christ? Are they filled with the Holy Spirit? Do they read the Bible? Do they pray? Do they go to church? Do they worship? Do they love God and the Lord Jesus Christ? Do they love others? Do they lead you closer to God or back to the world and the flesh? Are they a doer of God's Word, not just a hearer? Are they kind and courteous? Do they respect/honor you? Do you have common interests? Do they love you with Jesus love?

### **(v10-14) TOUCHING UPON MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE**

- **Regarding Marriage:** *In the Beginning* - Genesis 2:24-25 - *Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.* The Hebrew word for *joined* is *dabaq* - "to cling, cleave, keep close." Used in modern Hebrew in the sense of "to stick to, adhere to," *dabaq* yields the noun form for "glue" and the more abstract ideas of "loyalty, devotion." Occurring just over 60 times in the Hebrew Old Testament.

Jesus taught in Matthew 19:4-6 - *'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'? So then, they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate.*" The Greek word for *joined* is *kollao*, which is "to join fast together, to glue, cement."

- In Ephesians 5:30-33 - *For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones. "For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church. Nevertheless let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.*

- **Regarding Divorce:** In Malachi 2:13-17 it says that God "*hates divorce.*" In Matthew 19:1-9 Jesus gives us understanding regarding divorce.

One commentator writes, "We are prone to think that a change in circumstances is always the answer to a problem. But the problem is usually within us and not *around us.* The heart of every problem is the problem in the heart. I have watched couples go through divorce and seek happiness in new circumstances, only to discover that they carried their problems with them. A Christian lawyer once told me, "About the only people who profit from divorces are the attorneys!"

- **According to Scripture there are three reasons for divorce:**

(1) if adultery is committed (including homosexuality, incest, bestiality).

(2) if a non-believer wants to divorce the believer (v15).

(3) if there's continual physical or emotional abuse, the grounds for divorce come from v.15 "*But God has called us to peace.*"

- **Physical abuse is assault and battery and the perpetrator should be arrested immediately!**

- **Insight on Abuse:** The best way to prevent ending up feeling trapped in an abusive marriage is to get to know a potential spouse before making the commitment to marry. The signs of being an abuser are manifested in one's personality. These "red flags" are always there but are often overlooked or even ignored when attraction and infatuation take over. **These signs can include: irrational jealousy, the need to be in control, a quick temper, attempts to isolate the other person from his or her friends and family, drug or alcohol abuse, and disrespect for their partner's boundaries, privacy, personal space, or moral values.**

(v11) Regarding re-marriage without Biblical grounds for divorce - If a Christians divorce without biblical grounds they should reconcile or remain unmarried.

**(v12-13 & v15-16) Are You Married to a Non-Believer?**

The unbelieving spouse is the Christian's mission field! Pray for the unbeliever, witness to them through Christ love, and the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23 - But *the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.*

**(v14) What is the meaning of this sanctification?**

The word *sanctified* in this context reveals God's hand of blessing will be upon the family, because one of the spouses is a believer.

**(v17-40) TOUCHING UPON FIVE LIFE ISSUES!**

**(v17) LIFE ISSUE #1 – LIVE FOR THE LORD! - As God has distributed so walk – If single live for the Lord! If married live for the Lord! If married to a non-believer live for the Lord! If divorced live for the Lord!**

**(v18-19) LIFE ISSUE #2 – KEEP THE COMMANDMENTS OF GOD! – Jews and Gentiles are to keep the commandments of God (circumcised or uncircumcised, meaning that the outward sign does not save, but rather the inward working of the heart through faith in Christ).**

- What are the commandments? Jesus said in Matthew 22:37- 40 - *"You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'* John 13:34-35 - *"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."*

- Let's practice this LOVE EXERCISE everyday:

- L – LISTEN to each other
- O – OFFER your love to one another
- V – VALUE the relationship
- E – ENDURE all things

**(v20-24) LIFE ISSUE #3 – FREEDOM IN CHRIST! – If you're a slave live for the Lord! If can go free, then go for God! All believers are FREE IN CHRIST!**

**(v25-32) LIFE ISSUE #4 – SINGLENESSE – The word *virgin* is speaking of an unmarried daughter. Paul's advice to singles is to live for the Lord to the fullest, you're currently free from the responsibility of a wife/husband, or children, now is the time when you can do a lot for God, maybe it's serving in the church, maybe it's missions, pray and God will show you. The challenge for single Christians is *"how you may please the LORD!"* (Psalm 1)**

**(v33-40) LIFE ISSUE #5 – MARRIAGE / FATHERS / REMARRIAGE –**

**(v34-35) Husbands and wives will naturally try to please one another in their marriage, which can be a distraction from serving God, this is an observation which is a fact of life.**

**(v36-38) It's good for a Christian father to give away his daughter in marriage, young or more mature.**

**(v39-40) Paul is always pushing singles to remain single and serve the Lord, but if your spouse should pass away; you're at liberty to remarry.**