

1 Corinthians 7:1

2/24/19

Sunday Morning

1. We have come to another place that might cause some people some discomfort – I trust God's grace is sufficient if that's the case
2. Paul has been dealing w/ sexual immorality & is now going to lift their thoughts from immorality to the lofty position marital intimacy

1 Corinthians 7:1 Now concerning the things about which you wrote, it is good for a man not to touch a woman.

² But because of immoralities, each man is to have his own wife, and each woman is to have her own husband.

³ The husband must fulfill his duty to his wife, and likewise also the wife to her husband.

⁴ The wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband does; and likewise also the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife does.

⁵ Stop depriving one another, except by agreement for a time, so that you may devote yourselves to prayer, and come together again so that Satan will not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.

⁶ But this I say by way of concession, not of command.

⁷ Yet I wish that all men were even as I myself am. However, each man has his own gift from God, one in this manner, and another in that.

⁸ But I say to the unmarried and to widows that it is good for them if they remain even as I.

⁹ But if they do not have self-control, let them marry; for it is better to marry than to burn with passion.

¹⁰ But to the married I give instructions, not I, but the Lord, that the wife should not leave her husband

¹¹ (but if she does leave, she must remain unmarried, or else be reconciled to her husband), and that the husband should not divorce his wife.

¹² But to the rest I say, not the Lord, that if any brother has a wife who is an unbeliever, and she consents to live with him, he must not divorce her.

¹³ And a woman who has an unbelieving husband, and he consents to live with her, she must not send her husband away.

¹⁴ For the unbelieving husband is sanctified through his wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified through her believing husband; for otherwise your children are unclean, but now they are holy.

¹⁵ Yet if the unbelieving one leaves, let him leave; the brother or the sister is

not under bondage in such cases, but God has called us to peace.

¹⁶ For how do you know, O wife, whether you will save your husband? Or how do you know, O husband, whether you will save your wife?

V.1 Now concerning the things about which you wrote, it is good for a man not to touch a woman.

1. "Now concerning the things about which you wrote"
 - a. It is obvious that there were a lot of questions about marriage, sex & divorce in Corinth
 - i. They wrote Paul to find answers

2. "it is good for a man not to touch a woman"
 - a. He isn't saying that a man shouldn't get married
 - b. Marriage is a good thing
 - c. A wife is a good thing

Proverbs 12:4 An excellent wife is the crown of her husband, But she who shames him is like rottenness in his bones.

Proverbs 18:22 He who finds a wife finds a good thing And obtains favor from the LORD.

Proverbs 19:14 House and wealth are an inheritance from fathers, But a prudent wife is from the LORD.

Ecclesiastes 9:9 Enjoy life with the woman whom you love all the days of your fleeting life which He has given to you under the sun; for this is your reward in life and in your toil in which you have labored under the sun.

Hebrews 13:4 Marriage is to be held in honor among all, and the marriage bed is to be undefiled; for fornicators and adulterers God will judge.

- d. The greatest love stories come from Scripture

Genesis 24:67(Isaac comforted) Then Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah's tent, and he took Rebekah, and she became his wife, and he loved her; thus Isaac was comforted after his mother's death.

Genesis 29:20 So Jacob served seven years for Rachel and they seemed to him but a few days because of his love for her.

- a. There is a warning against people who think marriage is not spiritual
 - 1 Timothy 4:1** But the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons,² by means of the hypocrisy of liars seared in their own conscience as with a branding iron,³ men who forbid marriage and advocate abstaining from foods which God has created to be gratefully shared in by those who believe and know the truth.
- 2. "it is good for a man not to touch a woman"
 - a. So, what does he mean?
 - i. The key word is – "**touch**"
 - ii. It means to attach to – the root word for fire is in it
 - iii. Don't attach a fire where there isn't supposed to be one!
 - iv. Do not start a fire that can't be legitimately quenched
 - b. Before marriage no man should try to stir illicit feelings in a woman
 - i. When people date – they should leave each other better than when they found each other
 - c. No couple should ever get married just b/c of lust – it won't last!

V.2 But because of immoralities, each man is to have his own wife, and each woman is to have her own husband.

- 1. "because of immoralities, each man is to have his own wife"
 - a. God designed men & women to marry – that is His plan
 - i. That is how He planned on populating the world
- Genesis 1:27** God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

²⁸ God blessed them; and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

- b. Sex is a gift from God – it was the fall that lowered sex to the level it's on today
 - i. God invented sex!

Genesis 2:18 Then the LORD God said, "It is **not good** for the man to be alone; I will make him a helper suitable for him."**(the first "not good")**

V.20 The man gave names to all the cattle, and to the birds of the sky, and to every beast of the field, but for Adam there was not found a helper suitable for him.

²¹ So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then He took one of his ribs and closed up the flesh at that place.

²² The LORD God fashioned into a woman the rib which He had taken from the man, and brought her to the man.

²³ The man said, "This is now bone of my bones, And flesh of my flesh; She shall be called Woman, Because she was taken out of Man."

²⁴ For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother, and be joined to his wife; and they shall become one flesh.

²⁵ And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.**(b/c there was no sin)**

V.3 The husband must fulfill his duty to his wife, and likewise also the wife to her husband.

V.4 The wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband does; and likewise also the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife does.

1. "The husband must fulfill his duty to his wife...wife to her husband"
 - a. Marriage partners are equal in a godly marriage

- b. This was revolutionary in that day
- c. In the Greek & Roman world wives were chattel, property, slaves
 - i. Men usually had several wives – they each had duties: kitchen, kids, cleaning
- d. When a man wanted sex he went to a place of worship (i.e. Temple of Aphrodite/Venus or Temple of Artemis/Diana)
- e. It was revolutionary to call the wife a legitimate, equal partner in marriage
 - i. Those who say Apostle Paul didn't like women simply show their ignorance
- f. Paul says that husbands & wives are to find their deepest fulfillment w/ each other
 - i. Intimacy should strengthen a marriage
- g. Intimacy always changes something – it is never unbiased
- h. Have you wondered why a couple can live together outside of marriage & be happy, yet when they get married they are no longer happy?
- i. There is a reason for that – sex is outside of marriage feeds the old sin nature
 - i. The old sin nature is only happy when it is opposed to God
 - ii. Outside of marriage the old sin nature is satisfied
 - iii. When they get married the old sin nature is not satisfied – they soon divorce!
 - iv. That is why movie stars can live together for years and be happy then they get married & soon get a divorce

V.5 Stop depriving one another, except by agreement for a time, so that you may devote yourselves to prayer, and come together again so that Satan will not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.

1. "Stop depriving one another"

- a. Because sex had been taken to such a low level in Corinth some, who were married, thought it was more spiritual to live like unmarried
- b. Paul says that's wrong!
- c. Paul sets limits for marital abstinence:

- i. Mutual agreement
- ii. Time to devoted to God
- iii. Short period of time
- d. It is a sin to deny your marriage partner
 - i. Today men & woman are equally guilty of this

V.6 But this I say by way of concession, not of command.

1. "this I say by way of concession, not of command"
 - a. He doesn't meant that there is a different level of inspired Scripture
 - b. He means that there is freedom in a person's life to fast or not fast – to marry or not marry — under grace we are free

V.7 Yet I wish that all men were even as I myself am. However, each man has his own gift from God, one in this manner, and another in that.

1. "I wish that all men were even as I myself am"
 - a. Was Paul married? NO!

1 Corinthians 9:1 Am I not free? Am I not an apostle? Have I not seen Jesus our Lord? Are you not my work in the Lord?

V.5 Do we^(Paul & Barnabas) not have a right to take along a believing wife, even as the rest of the apostles and the brothers of the Lord and Cephas?

- b. Had he been married? Yes! – apparently a widower
 - i. All upstanding Jewish men were married
 - ii. The Mishna said that they should be married by 18 years
 - iii. The Babylonian Rabbis taught it best to marry at 14 years
 - iv. Unlike other religions Judaism didn't believe in marrying young girls to old men – marriage was not slavery
 - v. Paul had been married – he was "a Hebrew of the Hebrews"

Philippians 3:4 although I myself might have confidence even in the flesh. If anyone else has a mind to put confidence in the flesh, I far more:
⁵ circumcised the eighth day, of the nation of Israel,

of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the Law, a Pharisee;

⁶ as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to the righteousness which is in the Law, found blameless.

⁷ But whatever things were gain to me, those things I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ.

vi. Also he was a member of the Sanhedrin – had to be married – marriage was a requirement

Acts 26:10 "And this is just what I did in Jerusalem; not only did I lock up many of the saints in prisons, having received authority from the chief priests, but also when they were being put to death I cast my vote against them.

V.7 x Yet I wish that all men were even as I myself am. However, each man has his own gift from God, one in this manner, and another in that.

V.8 But I say to the unmarried and to widows that it is good for them if they remain even as I.

1. "it is good for them if they remain even as I"
 - a. Life was harder in that day than today
 - b. Paul was simply saying that he didn't want anyone to be more burdened down than necessary **V.28**

V.28 But if you marry, you have not sinned; and if a virgin marries, she has not sinned. Yet such will have trouble in this life, and I am trying to spare you.

V.32 But I want you to be free from concern. One who is unmarried is concerned about the things of the Lord, how he may please the Lord;

V.33 but one who is married is concerned about the things of the world, how he may please his wife,

V.34 and his interests are divided. The woman who is unmarried, and the virgin, is concerned about the things of the Lord, that she may be holy both in body and spirit; but one who is married is concerned about the things of the world, how she may please her husband.

V.35 This I say for your own benefit; not to put a restraint upon you, but to promote what is appropriate and to secure undistracted devotion to the Lord.

1. "to secure undistracted devotion to the Lord"

- a. When someone marries – they must understand that their life isn't their own anymore
- b. God knows that a couple needs to bond together to succeed
- c. In the O.T. when a young man married he couldn't go to war for a year b/c of his new wife

Deuteronomy 24:5 "When a man takes a new wife, he shall not go out with the army nor be charged with any duty; he shall be free at home one year and shall give happiness to his wife whom he has taken.

- d. How many young men marry & expect to hang around w/ their buddies – to play like they did when they were single?
- e. How many young women expect to hang around with their mothers or girlfriends after marriage instead of being a wife?

V.10 But to the married I give instructions, not I, but the Lord, that the wife should not leave her husband

V.11 (but if she does leave, she must remain unmarried, or else be reconciled to her husband), and that the husband should not divorce his wife.

- 1. "**if** she does leave, she must remain unmarried...husband must not divorce...wife"
 - a. When it says "divorce" it means for the purpose of marrying again
 - b. They had questions about divorce just as we do today
 - c. Paul said, two believers who can't get along might separate (the **if** is 3rd class condition) – but can't marry someone else
 - d. The exception is infidelity

Matthew 19:9(Christ speaking) "And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, except for immorality, and marries another woman commits adultery."

V.12 But to the rest I say, not the Lord, that if any brother has a wife who is an unbeliever, and she consents to live with him, he must not divorce her.

- 1. "to the rest I say, not the Lord"
 - a. He is saying that Christ didn't address this while on earth – but it is just as inspired as the rest of Scripture
- 2. "if a brother has a wife...unbeliever... he must not divorce her"
 - a. There were a lot of couples in Corinth where one got saved but the other didn't

- b. If the lost partner was willing to live w/ the believer they must stay together
 - i. He will go on to say that maybe the lost will get saved

V.13 And a woman who has an unbelieving husband, and he consents to live with her, she must not send her husband away.

V.14 For the unbelieving husband is sanctified through his wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified through her believing husband; for otherwise your children are unclean, but now they are holy.

1. "For the unbelieving husband is sanctified through his wife"
 - a. This doesn't mean that he is saved!
 - b. It means that he is in a place to get saved
2. "otherwise your children are unclean, but now they are holy"
 - a. This simply means that the children are in the structure God established – the family unit
 - b. There is another scenario where a believer can biblically marry someone after a divorce **V.15**

V.15 Yet if the unbelieving one leaves, let him leave; the brother or the sister is not under bondage in such cases, but God has called us to peace.

1. "if the unbelieving one leaves, let him leave"
 - a. Paul gives the 2nd reason for legitimate divorce – **abandonment**
2. "is not under bondage in such cases"
 - a. As much as we don't like divorce – We are not under bondage in the case of abandonment by unsaved or infidelity by partner
 - b. If you appear to be in any other seemingly impossible situation – hang in there **V.16** & trust God to deliver you

V.16 For how do you know, O wife, whether you will save your husband? Or how do you know, O husband, whether you will save your wife?

There are a couple of things to think about as we close this section

1. If you have a good marriage – don't take that lightly – be very grateful
2. If you are in a marriage that isn't what it should be – by God's grace it can be – continue to look to Him for guidance

3. If your past isn't laudable – your future can be
 - a. As far as your relationship w/ God is concerned you always start over –

1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
 - b. You can finish the race strong if you choose to

Philippians 3:13 Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead,
¹⁴ I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.
4. If you are not married or have lost your spouse – be content – today you are where He wants you

1 Thessalonians 5:18 (ESV) give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

 - a. Whatever you do don't marry someone just b/c you want to marry
 - i. God has someone for you if you are supposed to marry