

1 Corinthians 7

Understand the Corinthian society, the temple prostitutes. They considered the body totally evil, some thought since that was the case they could do anything they wanted to, others said you can't do anything that brings natural pleasure.

Was Paul married ? He was a rabbi, usually married, he was probably a member of the Sanhedrin, (*Acts 26:10*) *This I also did in Jerusalem, and many of the saints I shut up in prison, having received authority from the chief priests; and when they were put to death, I cast my vote against them.*, he speaks with such authority on the marriage relationship. Perhaps his wife died or as some think, his wife may have left him when he embraced Christianity.

v.3-4 physical pleasure was created by God to be enjoyed in the proper context
- there were some who felt that because they didn't have relations they were more spiritual

v.7 Celibacy is a gift, not a natural condition
- *Matt. 19:12*

v.10 I command, yet not I but the Lord- in other words, the Lord has already spoken on this
- (*Mat 5:31-32 NKJV*) *"Furthermore it has been said, 'Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.' {32} "But I say to you that whoever divorces his wife for any reason except sexual immorality causes her to commit adultery; and whoever marries a woman who is divorced commits adultery.*
- ***see Matthew 19***

v.11 there are instances where it is ok to leave, abuse- always with the idea that there will be reconciliation

v.12 I not the Lord, - in other words there has been no instruction yet, so as an apostle he is giving it

v.14 - (*1 Pet 3:1-2 NKJV*) *Wives, likewise, be submissive to your own husbands, that even if some do not obey the word, they, without a word, may be won by the conduct of their wives, {2} when they observe your chaste conduct accompanied by fear.*

- don't get involved with non- believers romantically
- children are covered by the believing parent

v.15 some try to say this can mean that the unbeliever can depart from the relationship while still there in body

v.17 Paul expands the principle to all areas

v.25 2 interpretations

- talking to fathers about letting daughter get married
- maybe those who are married but with the condition of no physical relations

v.28 marriage brings its own problems

- *He who finds a wife finds a good thing- Proverbs.*

v.29 keep context, we should be concerned with pleasing God

- Paul's mindset was that the return of Jesus was imminent
- he is not saying don't fulfill your obligations as a husband

v.30 live with your eyes on eternity and not on the here and now which is fleeting

This is not to be condemning or say that those who remain single are more spiritual, this is just a fact that there will be divided priorities.

v.39 if a widow or widower, you can remarry but only another believer

Ephesians 5:22-33

Go back to verse 21 "submitting to one another in the fear of God"

v.22-24 submit to your own husband as unto the Lord- this doesn't mean the same submission as the Lord but rather submission is a duty owed to the Lord- you submit to the Lord by submitting to your husband

- order or authority does not mean superiority but just God ordained order
- head- direction
- savior- covering- Numbers 30 speaks of a husband's covering over his wife concerning vows she has made unto the Lord
- be subject- military term for lining up in order-

****** I Peter 3 - Likewise, you wives, be subject to your own husbands, that even if some do not obey the word, they, without a word, may be won by the conduct of their own wives, when they observe your chaste conduct accompanied by fear. (submitting to one another in fear or reverence of God)***

Husbands

- love your wife as Jesus loved us
- gave Himself for us
- sanctify and cleanse with washing of water by the Word
 - this means we are to be in the Word
- present her glorious, without blemish
 - love her like your own body because she is
 - nourish
 - make sure she gets what is good for her to grow and develop
 - cherish - hold close and dear- I think back to when I thought I would lose Carol as she gave birth to Eileen
- we are Members of His Body- not just members of His church, not just enrolled , but part of Him
 - ** difference in praying for someone and with someone

***** *I Peter 3 Likewise you husbands, dwell with them (your wife) with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered.---*** If you want a godly wife, be a godly husband.

The Church is the Bride of Christ

Revelation 19: 7-9"Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready." And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints. Then he said to me, "Write: 'Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!' " And he said to me, "These are the true sayings of God."