

I Corinthians 7:1-40 Part One – “ So How Do We Live A Married Or Single Life In Corinth?” 2/9/2025

Chapter 7 deals with 6 questions:

TODAY: QUESTION 1. Are couples to continue normal physical relationships after becoming believers in Christ?

ANSWER: Yes, they owe it to each other to do so.

Paul had opposed sexual license in chapter 6 and now, just as strongly opposes asceticism.

Example: Colossians 2:20-23, I Timothy 4:1-5, Hebrews 13:4

Gnostic ideas: Physical matter is evil in and of itself so you can do two things:

Indulge all lusts in life because the spirit and body have no effect on each other. Or, treat the body ascetically and the spirit will be more free. God says the body and spirit are both holy and should be treated accordingly.

Paul does not lay down the reason for, the ground of marriage in I Cor. 7. **Check Ephesians 5:22-33 for that.**

Marriage is not ordained for a remedy against sin, but here gives a special reason why those should marry who might otherwise have remained single.

You cannot make the physical aspect of marriage the main thing, the glue to hold things together. When you shack up first you have immediately blinded yourself to a real growing together in love.

Point: Sex is wonderful in the right context.

Celibacy is good if God has gifted you for this.

Text: I Corinthians 7:1-7 *****

7:1 “To touch” metaphor for sexual relationships

Example: Genesis 20:6 “Abimelech did not touch Sarah.”

7:2 "because of immoralities" This is not the main reason for marriage, but it is a valid reason. Again, if you entered marriage only for physical intimacy, then you will have a miserable marriage after a while.

Paul is not giving a low view of marriage, but answering particular question they had asked him in a letter. The immoralities in Corinth need to be kept in mind.

Full view of marriage: Ephesians 5: 22-33, Matthew 19: 1-12, Colossians 3: 18-19, I Peter 3:1-13

Question: How do you live a pure life in Corinth? Set your mind on what pleases God in matters of intimacy and its proper context. Marriage is the crucible of learning unselfishness. If you make sex the main thing, then you started with selfishness. (Also, having kids cannot be the glue of marriage either, but that subject for another time.)

7:5 "devote yourself to prayer" Devote = "to have leisure for" (School) $\sigma\chi\epsilon\lambda\acute{\alpha}\sigma\eta\tau\epsilon$

Note the importance of private devotion here.

Example: (Part of our goals as a church. "Edification" 3. "Develop a personal devotion and prayer life.")

BUT, be physically intimate often, so you will not be tempted outside marriage.

7:6 Paul has laid down the duties of all who are married, but he does not lay down, as a duty, that all should be married.

7:7 What is your gift?

Unmarried, but will get married: Until you are married, if that is your gift, then you still have to exercise self-control.

Married: You still have to have self-control

If being single is your gift: You still have to have self-control.

Galatians 5: 22-23, I Thessalonians 4: 2-8