

I. Introduction: Paul answered the Corinthians' questions in this chapter about marriage, divorce, remarriage, singleness, and human sexuality (in the context of marriage).

- A. Paul explained to the Corinthians that they should honor God by enjoying sexual intimacy within marriage, or remain single if God had given them that gift.

II. Marriage, Singleness, and Sexuality (1 Cor 7:1-9).

A. The Marriage Question (vv. 1-2).

1. Paul first answered the Corinthians' question about whether it was good to be celibate for the sake of holiness, or if it was better to be married.

B. The Marriage Responsibility (vv. 3-4).

1. Paul encouraged the Corinthians to enjoy the pleasures of sexual intimacy in marriage, and emphasized their responsibility to serve one another in love.

C. The Marriage Warning (vv. 5-6).

1. Paul commanded the Corinthians to stop depriving one another of sexual intimacy, unless they had mutually agreed upon it, so that Satan would not tempt them.

D. The Marriage Exception (vv. 7-9).

1. Paul exhorted those who were single or widowed to remain unmarried if they were able to be self-controlled, because singleness was a gift given by God.

III. Conclusion: Paul told the Corinthians that having a spouse was good and that sexual intimacy should continue, but that if they wanted to remain single, that was also good.

Questions About: Marriage, Singleness, & Sexuality

1. Should a Christian get married or remain single? Which one is better? How should married people want to please their spouse? What is one's duty to their spouse? **(1 Cor 7:1-9)**
2. What question did Paul address from the Christians? **(1 Cor 7:1-2)** What did it mean to "touch a woman"? **(Gen 20:6; Ruth 2:9; Prov 6:29)** How was their view of sex distorted?
3. Why did Paul instruct them to have their own spouse? **(1 Cor 7:1-2)** What is God's pattern for marriage? **(Gen 2:18-25)** What does it mean for a man to "cleave" to his wife? **(Gen 2:24)**
4. What did Paul command the Corinthians to do for their spouse? **(1 Cor 7:3-4)** What authority does a spouse have over their body? **(vv. 3-4)** How should you fulfill your partner's needs?
5. What was Paul's second command to the Corinthians? **(1 Cor 7:5-6)** What exception did Paul give for ceasing sexual intimacy? **(v. 5)** What three conditions did he say must be met?
6. What was the warning that Paul gave about Satan? **(1 Cor 7:5-6)** Why did he say ceasing was a concession? **(1 Cor 7:6)** How might they have misinterpreted this otherwise?
7. What was Paul's instruction about singleness? **(1 Cor 7:7-9)** How is singleness a gift from God? **(v. 7)** Was Paul single or widowed? **(vv. 7-8)** Why did he tell them to remain single?
8. Why did Paul tell some of them to get married? **(1 Cor 7:7-9)** What advantages might a single person have? **(7:32-34)** Does this mean that being single or married is better? **(7:27)**

Prayer

1. Pray and ask God to help you to be a servant of your spouse by satisfying their needs.
2. Ask God to use you in your singleness or married state for the glory of His kingdom.