

Sex In Marriage (1 Corinthians 7:1-9)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Corinth was a city plagued by pervasive sexual immorality and low moral values. Do you think that we are experiencing a similar situation today? Explain.

2. Some of the Corinthian believers felt that “sex is dirty, defiling and unworthy.” Do you agree? What does the Bible teach about sex?

3. Because of their view on sex these believers felt that the way to address sexual immorality was to abstain completely from sexual relations.
 - a) Do you think that sexual abstinence or celibacy is the best way to address this problem?

 - b) What are some ways to address this problem?

4. What is your understanding of 1 Corinthians 6:18-20?
 - a) What did Paul mean when he said: “whoever sins sexually, sins against their own body”?

 - b) How do you honour God with your body?

5. Paul seemed to suggest that marriage and a healthy sex life (within the bounds of marriage) are preventatives for sexual immorality. Why do you think he said that? What about people who are unmarried?

6. In 1 Corinthians 7:2-4 Paul talked about the mutuality of marriage. What do you think Paul was saying with regards to “sexual pleasures” and “sexual duty”?

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7. Paul gave some guidelines to the Corinthian believers concerning sexual abstinence within marriage.
 - a) What are they?

 - b) Do you think that it is beneficial for couples to have such periods of sexual abstinence? Why?

 - c) Paul seemed to suggest that prolonged sexual abstinence would lead to negative consequences? Why?

8. Why did Paul describe “marriage” and “singlehood” as gifts of God? Do you agree?

9. *“⁸ Now to the unmarried and the widows I say: it is good for them to stay unmarried, as I do.”*
 - a) Do you think Paul meant this as an advice or as a command? Why?

 - b) Do you agree with Paul? Why or why not?

10. “It is better to marry than to burn”
 - a) What do you think Paul meant?

 - b) Does this apply to widows only or to singles as well? Why?

11. What is the difference between “sexual desires” and “lust”?

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12. What are some ways to ensure that our sexual desires are pure and holy?

13. What has God spoken to you from this passage?

14. How do you think God wants you to respond?