

1 CORINTHIANS:

God's Glorious Church in Real Life

Sermon Title: "Singleness and Marriage: Good Gifts from God"

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 7:1-9

Pastor Chris Fritz / Sunday, February 21, 2021

INTRODUCTION

I. SINGLENES AND MARRIAGE: TWO VERY GOOD GIFTS FROM GOD

1) SINGLENES is a very good gift from God; it allows for less distracted devotion to God, but singleness is not for everyone!

1 Corinthians 7:7-9, 35 -

2) MARRIAGE is also a very good gift; it is the beautiful, unique, God-designed relationship in which sexual intimacy and pleasure are to be enjoyed, expressed, and experienced.

Note: It is unclear in verse 1 whether Paul is quoting another popular slogan, quoting part of the letter the Corinthians wrote to him, or whether Paul is stating a universal principle.

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

"Now concerning the matters about which you wrote: 'It is good for man not to have sexual relations with a woman.'" (1 Corinthians 7:1, ESV)

Note: It may be the case that there were those in Corinth who, in response to the immorality all around them, adopted the position that all sex, even sex within marriage, should just be avoided.

Four Observations from 1 Corinthians 7:2-5a...

Observation #1 - Do not think that marriage “solves” or removes all temptation to sexual sin.

Observation #2 - Frequency, ongoing sexual intimacy in marriage, is clearly implied in verse 3.

Observation #3 - Give regular thought and attention to what your spouse finds attractive.

Observation #4 - Sex doesn't make a marriage great; following Christ's example, showing and giving sacrificial and selfless love, that is truly great in God's eyes!

1 Corinthians 7:5-6 -

3) SATAN is the great “distorter” of good gifts; he will gladly use sexual desire to destroy and lead you away from God, but he is no match for the riches of God's glory and grace.

Note: The rise of desire does not mean victory for Satan, but it does mean vulnerability to Satan.

“For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality; that each one of you know how to control his own body in holiness and honor, not in the passion of lust like the Gentiles who do not know God.” (1 Thessalonians 4:3-5)

“For God has not called us for impurity, but in holiness. Therefore whoever disregards this, disregards not man but God, who gives His Holy Spirit to you.” (1 Thessalonians 4:7-8)

“...you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.” (1 Corinthians 6:20)

Questions for Further Study, Reflection, and Application...

1. What happens in chapter 7? What does Paul begin to do?
2. What did Paul think about singleness? How does this compare with your understanding?
3. How could verse 9 be abused or misunderstood?
4. What commands and/or principles does Paul give to married people in verses 2-5? Why is the emphasis on “giving” instead of “taking”?
5. How does Satan use desire (even good desires) to tempt us?
6. How does 1 Thessalonians 4:3-8 and 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 help us to walk in honor and love towards God? Where is the emphasis placed in these verses?