

Marriage, Part One

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1Corinthians 7:1-17

Now concerning the matters about which you wrote: "It is good for a man not to have sexual relations with a woman." But because of the temptation to sexual immorality, each man should have his own wife and each woman her own husband. (1Co7:1-2, ESV)

Introduction

We live in a day and age where sex or the allure of sex is used for many purposes which God probably never intended. As we begin to read this section of Paul's letter where he touches upon the issues of sex, marriage and singleness, we will benefit by keeping in mind three things: a) Paul wasn't ignorant about sexual temptation, he himself admitted to struggle with lust (see 2Co11:29), b) he was very conscious of the fact that the marriage covenant was given to mankind to teach the of Christ and the Church, and c) that these discussions took place in the context of the being "called out ones" or the Church of Jesus Christ.

1. The marriage covenant.

(1Corinthians 7:1-5)

a) "It is good for a man not to have sexual relations with a woman." (v.1)

b) What to do about the conjugal rights of the husband and wife?

2. Faithfulness in our relationships with God and people. (1Corinthians 7:6-11)

a) A gift of singleness?

b) Remain single, marry, reconcile but avoid divorce if at all possible.

3. What makes a Christian home?

(1Corinthians 7:12-17)

a) What should we do when one spouse comes to faith before the other?

b) The sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit in the heart and home.

For our prayerful study, discussion and application

1. Why does Paul write that it is good for a man not to touch a woman in verse 1?

2. Read verses 3-5. What is Paul talking about here and what should you do about it?

3. What are Paul's instructions about reconciliation and divorce in verses 12-16?

Conclusion

God made man in His image as male and female, and gave us both sex and marriage that we might know Him and grow in love and holiness.

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