



PROFOUND PRINCIPLES FOR COUPLES

Series: A Marriage Tune-up

1 Corinthians 7:1-7

Sunday, November 7, 2021

We should never be ashamed to talk about what God was not ashamed to create and to put in print.

CORINTH: Historical and Biblical Background

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

Two Extremes in Corinth

1. The habit of some Christian men going down to the local temple that was run by priestess/prostitutes and “*worshiping*” there while still claiming to be a Christian.

1 Corinthians 6:15 (NASB) *Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take away the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? May it never be!*

2. Some believers were taking the line that celibacy – even inside of marriage – was the highest good a person could achieve.

GOD'S DESIGN FOR SEX AND INTIMACY

1 Corinthians 7:1 *Now concerning the things about which you wrote, it is good for a man not to touch a woman.* ² *But because of immoralities, each man is to have his own wife, and each woman is to have her own husband.*

1. Intimacy in marriage is planned for the husband-wife relationship ONLY. 7:1-2

So, what place does sex have in marriage?

Why is sex outside of marriage so devastating?

- The biggest issue is one of **BROKEN TRUST** – “*If he (or she) did this outside of marriage, what guarantees they won’t do it again?*”
- A second issue is one of a decrease in **VERBAL COMMUNICATION** – sharing and listening.
- A third result is a strange **ROLE REVERSAL** can also occur.

1 Corinthians 7:2 (NASB) *But because of immoralities, each man is to have his own wife, and each woman is to have her own husband.* ³ *The husband must fulfill his duty to his wife, and likewise also the wife to her husband.* ⁴ *The wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband does; and likewise also the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife does.*

2. Intimacy in marriage is an expression of UNSELFISH AFFECTION, not selfish desire. 7:2-4

The emphasis is not on the PRIVILEGES of marriage, but rather on the RESPONSIBILITIES of marriage.

Genesis 2:24 *“For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother, and be joined to his wife; and they shall become one flesh.”*

Ephesians 5:28 *“So husbands ought also to love their own wives as their own bodies.* ²⁹ *He who loves his own wife loves himself; for no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ also does the church, ...* ³³ *Nevertheless, each individual among you also is to love his own wife even as himself...”*

GOD THE FATHER

HUSBAND

WIFE

1 Corinthians 7:5 (NASB) *Stop depriving one another, except by agreement for a time, so that you may devote yourselves to prayer, and come together again so that Satan will not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.* ⁶ *But this I say by way of concession, not of command.*

3. Intimacy in marriage is not to be INTERRUPTED except on very rare occasions. 7:5-6

There are two key things we need to understand here.

Guidelines for Sexual Abstinence:

- It is by MUTUAL AGREEMENT.
- It is for a set PERIOD of time.
- It is for a reason serious enough to call for a FOCUS on prayer.

- The couple would come together AGAIN in intimacy.

Proverbs 5:15 [NLT] *“Drink water from your own well - share your love only with your wife. ¹⁶ Why spill the water of your springs in public, having sex with just anyone? ¹⁷ You should reserve it for yourselves. Don't share it with strangers. ¹⁸ Let your wife be a fountain of blessing for you. Rejoice in the wife of your youth. ¹⁹ She is a loving doe, a graceful deer. Let her breasts satisfy you always. May you always be captivated by her love.”*

1 Corinthians 7:7 (NASB) *Yet I wish that all men were even as I myself am. However, each man has his own gift from God, one in this manner, and another in that.*

CLOSING OBSERVATIONS

- When it comes to intimacy, many of us need a better MENTOR.
- Developing intimacy in a relationship takes PRACTICE.
- Our ultimate resource is the FAITHFULNESS of God.