

# PAUL'S FIRST EPISTLE TO THE CORINTHIANS

LEARNING HOW TO BE A HEAVENLY CHURCH IN A GODLESS WORLD

## 1 CORINTHIANS 7:1-9

MEDIA REFERENCE NUMBER SMX736 MARCH 27, 2011

THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

### **GOD, LOVE AND MARRIAGE - WHAT'S SEX GOT TO DO WITH IT**

*How To Be A Church That's Out Of This World*

SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:

**Maturity, Servant hood, Leadership, Discipleship**

### **1 Corinthians 7:1-9**

Now concerning the things of which you wrote to me: It is good for a man not to touch a woman. :2 Nevertheless, because of sexual immorality, let each man have his own wife, and let each woman have her own husband. :3 Let the husband render to his wife the affection due her, 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 the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife does. :5 Do not deprive one another except with consent for a time, that you may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again so that Satan does not tempt you because of your lack of self-control. :6 But I say this as a concession, not as a commandment. :7 For I wish that all men were even as I myself. But each one has his own gift from God, one in this manner and another in that. :8 But I say to the unmarried and to the widows: It is good for them if they remain even as I am; :9 but if they cannot exercise self-control, let them marry. For it is better to marry than to burn with passion.

The God of the Bible is the Creator of All Things, and according to Himself, His crowning achievement within creation was the making of Mankind.

### **Genesis 1:27-2:25**

So God created man in His *own* image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. :28 Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth... 2:7 And the LORD God formed man *of* the dust of

the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.... :8 The LORD God planted a garden eastward in Eden, and there He put the man whom He had formed.... :21 And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam, and he slept; and He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh in its place. :22 Then the rib which the LORD God had taken from man He made into a woman, and He brought her to the man. :23 And Adam said: "This *is* now bone of my bones And flesh of my flesh; She shall be called Woman, Because she was taken out of Man." :24 Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. :25 And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.

There is no getting around the fact that we are creatures  
that love and crave love.

The Greatest Love Letter Ever Written was From God Himself – The Bible.  
And the most loved object in all of history – Is you  
And If there was ever one verse that sums up the entirety of Scripture and the  
Intentions of God it would be without hesitation – John 3:16

**C. S. Lewis in his book** *The Four Loves* describes four kinds of human love: affection, romantic love, friendship, and the love of God. "**Storge**, or affection, is the natural love a parent has for a child. **Eros**, or romantic love, is the desire two have for each other. Plato considered eros something like poetic rapture upon seeing the beauty of another. Eros is the longing for the beauty and company of the beloved when two persons fall in love. This is in contrast to someone who has sexual desire without being in love, who wants to use the other strictly for selfish pleasure. A utilitarian relationship, in which the sexual partner becomes an object for use, holds no long-term possibility for joy, fulfillment, or happiness, but rather leaves one empty, disappointed, and ultimately alone. **Filia** is the love of friendship, but may have conditions. It gives, but may expect something equal in return. **Agape** is true, unconditional love, a generosity of spirit which gives and expects nothing in return. It is the love that God has for us. It is love at the highest level. The more true love there is between a man and a woman, or among family and friends, the more successful their relationship."

It's as Though we are hearing Paul's Marriage Retreat  
Messages on Sex, Marriage And God

**Did you ever stop to think that Sex is the #1  
activity in the world today on a daily basis?**

It always has been, it always will be. It's the way God made it to be and  
it's been going on ever since God brought Eve to Adam – that freaked him out.

### Genesis 2:21-23

And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof; :22 And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man. :23 And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called **Woman**, because she was taken out of Man.

But why are so many people interested in talking about sex today  
Watching it or having it – ***with the wrong person?***

## GOD, LOVE AND MARRIAGE

*WHAT'S SEX GOT TO DO WITH IT ?*

### 1.) Sex brings comfort to one another

v.1-2


The Corinthian culture was a sexually charged culture. And so among the believers the pendulum had swung from one side or to the other side.

#### **Monasticism is never the answer.**

“let’s just break away from it all and become monks.  
No more monkeying around for us”

### 1a.) Marital sex brings the comfort of physical peace

1 Now concerning the things of which you wrote to me:  
It is good for a man not to **touch** a woman.

 **Touch** a,ptw hapto, hap´-to; to fasten to or be glued to, to kindle a flame or to cause to light. to start a fire.

### Song of Solomon 2:5-7

Sustain me with cakes of raisins, Refresh me with apples, For I *am* faint from love :6  
His left hand *is* under my head, And his right hand embraces me. :7 I charge you, O daughters of Jerusalem, By the gazelles or by the does of the field, Do not stir up nor awaken love Until it pleases.

### Song of Solomon 6:3

**I am my beloved’s, And my beloved is mine.**

## MARITAL SEX BRINGS COMFORT

### 1b.) Marital sex brings the comfort of emotional unity

2 Nevertheless, because of sexual immorality, let each man **have his own wife**, and let each woman **have her own husband**.

**In the Bible Celibacy is Allowed - but it's not Commanded.**

There's a better way and it's Marriage.

#### Mark 10:9

Therefore **what God has joined together**, let not man separate."

Sex Causes a Profound, Emotional Unity – a Bond Between a husband and a wife  
(*What about a boyfriend and girlfriend?*)

#### Hebrews 13:4

Marriage *is* honorable among all, and the bed **undefiled**;  
but fornicators and adulterers God will judge.

Is the Lord in Your Bedroom?

## MARITAL SEX BRINGS COMFORT

### 1c.) Marital sex brings the comfort of spiritual belonging

1 Now concerning the things of which you wrote to me: It is good for a man not to touch a woman. :2 Nevertheless, because of sexual immorality, let each man **have his own wife**, and let each woman **have her own husband**.

#### Matthew 19:5

*"For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'?* :6 So then, **they are no longer two but one flesh...**

Spiritual Belonging

#### 1 Peter 3:7

Husbands, likewise, dwell with *them* with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as *being* heirs together of the grace of life,

# GOD, LOVE AND MARRIAGE

WHAT'S SEX GOT TO DO WITH IT ?

## 2.) Sex creates satisfaction with one another

v.3-5

### Marriage is a Ministry

( it's the 1<sup>st</sup> ministry of every husband and wife )

#### 1 Timothy 5:8

But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.

## 2a.) Marital sex creates a mutual opportunity to serve

3 Let the husband **render** to his wife the **affection** due her, and likewise also the wife to her husband.

### God says it's owed to her, Mr. husband.

She is first your ministry. She is first your mission field.

She is first your church.

### Serving in the Sexual Ministry of Your Spouse:

It becomes a clear Spiritual Barometer.



**render** *ajpodi÷dwmi apodidomi, ap-od-eed'-o-mee*; to give up or away. To hand over or place into the care of another. To restore, to reward, to yield.



**affection** *eujnoia eunoia, yoo'-noy-ah*; an overall, all-encompassing kindness, benevolence, good-will, satisfaction. The **conjugal** ministry.

Wash One Another's Feet in All Areas  
(Be Nice and Thoughtful)

Marriage is so biblical – it's all about the other person, not you.

Biblical sex is all about your husband or wife, not you.

**John 13:34-35**

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. :35 By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”

Read That in the Context of Sex

**MARITAL SEX CREATES SATISFACTION**

**2b.) Marital sex creates a mutual surrendering of wills**

4 The wife does not have **authority** over her own body, but the husband does. And likewise the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife does.

Marital sex is a ministry of pleasure and satisfaction to him/her


**Song of Solomon 2:4**

He brought me to the banqueting house, And his banner over me was love.

**MARITAL SEX CREATES SATISFACTION**

**2c.) Marital sex creates a mutual ministry of holiness**

5 Do not **deprive** one another except with consent for a time, that you may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again so that Satan does not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.

 **deprive** *ajpostere÷w apostereo, ap-os-ter-eh'-o;* (headache or game) to keep back from by fraud or deception. To steal or to withhold

“Do not **deprive** one another”  
Notice the high priority that God holds sex in the marriage.

**Overcoming Abuse in This Area**

(Satan wants you destroyed – Jesus wants you free)

Never use sex as a weapon or a tool for manipulation.  
That is a sin and a direct violation of God's word.

**Ephesians 5:23-27**

For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body. :24 Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so *let* the wives *be* to their own husbands in everything. :25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, :26 that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, :27 that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.

**GOD, LOVE AND MARRIAGE**

*WHAT'S SEX GOT TO DO WITH IT ?*

**3.) Sex promotes security in one another**

**v.6-9**

**3a.) Marital sex promotes our availability to God**

:6 But I say this as a concession, not as a commandment. :7 For I wish that all men were even as I myself. But **each one has his own gift from God**, one in this manner and another in that.

Paul is Saying;

*These are the words of an Apostle, Jesus Christ Himself Did not speak specifically to this. – I speak with the Lord's wisdom on this.*

**Matthew 5:32**

But I say to you that whoever divorces his wife for any reason except sexual immorality causes her to commit adultery; and whoever marries a woman who is divorced commits adultery.

**Some people want to be married** and look forward to being married.

Others **love being single** and have no desire to get married.

**A man or woman who's gifted with singleness**

will not have much of a sex drive – they're just not interested.

### 1 Peter 3:7-9

Husbands, likewise, dwell with them with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered. :8 Finally, all of you be of one mind, having compassion for one another; love as brothers, be tenderhearted, be courteous; :9 not returning evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary blessing, knowing that you were called to this, that you may inherit a blessing.

### Opposites for Life - - In marital counseling

I have never had a couple yet sit down and say. "Pastor, we're having a really hard time getting our bills paid or even holding down a job – we just can't stop having sex. What are we going to do?"

### To the woman who's in a difficult situation:

You will need to pray and ask the Lord for grace and mercy at every thought of your husband. Pray as you present yourself to your husband as to the Lord. The Lord will honor your obedience and will use you to change your husband.

### To the man who's in a difficult situation:

You will need to ask the Lord to heal your hurt of the bitterness and hurt that you've buried, those things that have made your wife so ugly to you.

## MARITAL SEX PROMOTES SECURITY

### 3b.) Marital sex promotes our personal stability

:8 But I say to the **unmarried** and to the **widows**:  
It is good for them if they remain even as I am;

### It appears that Paul was not always a single man:

Jewish & Church history tells us that a member of **the Sanhedrin** was required to be a married man. It appears that Paul was a member and that he had direct authority to arrest, abuse and even kill Christians as was his business in Damascus Syria; *"I was advancing in Judaism beyond many Jews of my own age and was extremely zealous for the traditions of my fathers"* – *"Concerning zeal, I persecuted the church"* Philippians 3:6

### 1 Corinthians 9:5

Do we have no right to take along a believing wife, as *do* also the other apostles, the brothers of the Lord, and Cephas?



# MARITAL SEX PROMOTES SECURITY

## 3c.) Marital sex promotes our expressions of love

:9 but if they **cannot exercise self-control**, let them marry.  
For it is **better to marry than to burn with passion**.

### Genesis 26:8

And it came to pass, when he had been there a long time, that Abimelech king of the Philistines looked out at a window, and saw, and, behold, Isaac was **sporting** with Rebekah his wife.

### Song of Solomon 4:1-7

How beautiful you are, my darling! Oh, how beautiful! Your eyes behind your veil are like the doves. Your hair is like a flock of goats descending from Mount Gilead. :2 Your teeth are like a flock of sheep just shorn, coming up from the washing. Each has its twin; not one of them is alone. :3 Your lips are like a scarlet ribbon; your mouth is lovely. Your temples behind your veil are like the halves of a pomegranate. :4 Your neck is like the tower of David, built with elegance; on it hang a thousand shields, all of them shields of warriors. :5 Your two breasts are like two fawns, like twin fawns of a gazelle that browse among the lilies. :6 Until the day breaks and the shadows flee, I will go to the mountain of myrrh and to the hill of incense. :7 All beautiful you are, my darling; there is no flaw in you.

## The Christmas Curse

“Back Away from The Door – We’re Talking About Your Christmas Gifts and if You Don’t Back Away from The Door, You’ll Get Nothing but a Lump of Coal in Your Stocking”

### Ephesians 5:32-33

This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church. :33 Nevertheless let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.

Express your “**love and appreciation**” and or “**commitment**” by giving gifts and tokens of love – acts of love  
(a “kids-free-day” - Starbucks, Wahoo’s, Victoria Secret gift card, or a Nordstrom gift card)

**Open the door / Stand up – Be a Cary Grant!**

Well Christian, sex in marriage is an amazing way of saying:  
“I appreciate you and I want you to know that. And I want to remind you of that  
with the “ministry presentation of my love”  
– so here you go...

**Romans 5:8**

But God demonstrates His own love toward us,  
in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

## The Cross of Christ

The Greatest Display of Selflessness and Devotion  
was when Jesus willingly and submissively went to the Cross.

————— *End of Study* —————

© By Jack D. Hibbs, March 27, 2011