

**“Honoring God with Our Bodies”**  
**1 Corinthians 7: Marriage**  
**Honoring God in Marriage – Verses 1-7, 10-11, 39-40**  
**Jerry Grey Part 3 - 3/14/10; 8/2023**

**Introduction:**

A wife was sitting at the breakfast table and asked her husband, “What if something happened to me and I died first? Would you marry again?” He thought for a while, then responded, “Yes, I probably would.” Then she asked, “Well, would you bring your new wife to live in this house and have her sleep in our bed?” Well, I hadn't thought about it, but I probably would,” he said. She probed further, “Would you let her use my golf clubs?” To which he replied, “No, because she's left-handed.”

These next few messages will hopefully answer a lot of questions for you. I will try to encourage the weak, educate the ignorant and rescue the perishing.

The greatest witness that we have on earth of God's relationship with His children rests in marriage.

The worst witness to God's relationship also rests in marriage.

Marriage is a great walk of faith. It is a rewarder of the diligent, and likewise exposes the lazy. Marriage can enhance your walk with Jesus or destroy it.

**Quote:** Rick Alford used to say, *“marriage is like flies on a screen door... some trying to get out and some trying to get in.”*

Peter says this spiritually about marriage.

**1 Peter 3:7**

<sup>7</sup> Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives, and treat them with respect as the weaker partner and as

heirs with you of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing will hinder your prayers.

NIV

It takes all that we possess to keep it going and finish strong. It takes 100% from both parties and an enormous dose of Jesus.

You will hear some things as we go through this chapter you might not like. I'm going to stay in the word. I hope to guide us through these waters and encourage you to honor God in all situations.

I've done a lot of premarital counseling lately. I'm still amazed at how naïve people really are about marriage before they enter this sacred commitment. Many people prepare more for a vacation than their wedding and life together. Today, many couples are more concerned about the party after the marriage than the ceremony. In spite of all the scared preparation that you perform before the big day, you can still lose your marriage. Greater Christians than I have failed at marriage.

**I am certain that if you have experienced divorce you have beat yourself up enough so I will not be doing that the next few messages, so relax.**

I have some differing opinions of reality than some preachers. I want to look at this biblically and with discernment. I understand this is a difficult area and sometimes the most painful consequences of your walk with God. We all want to honor God with our bodies, but sometimes we have to make choices that are not pleasing to God or that are not biblical. We have to make lemon aid with the lemons, so to speak. Our God is a God of grace and forgiveness. Life is not perfect; our marriages are not perfect;

we are not perfect; however, our God is perfect, and He is a Father of restoration. Many times we just lean on grace.

My goal is to encourage those of you that have experienced failure, me included. I seek to warn those who are not married, and to give biblical advice to those who are in trouble at this time. Don't judge my opinions until you hear me out. I will give you God's Word, and when I don't have a Word, I will let you know when I speak from experience or from a spiritual education.

**Marriage is hard work! If you have a good marriage you need to start thanking God for it right now!**

Marriage: - Ruth Harms Calkin, Prolific Christian Author: Love Is So Much More, Lord

It's rough. It's tough. It's work.  
 Anybody who says it isn't  
 Has never been married.  
 Marriage has far bigger problems  
 Than toothpaste squeezed  
 From the middle of the tube.

Marriage means....  
 Grappling, aching, struggling.  
 It means putting up  
 With personality weaknesses  
 Accepting criticism  
 And giving each other freedom to fail.  
 It means sharing deep feelings  
 About fear and rejection.  
 It means turning self-pity into laughter  
 And taking a walk to gain control.

Marriage means...  
 Gentleness and joy  
 Toughness and fortitude  
 Fairness and forgiveness  
 And a walloping amount of sacrifice.  
 Marriage means...  
 Learning when to say nothing  
 When to keep talking  
 When to push a little  
 When to back off.  
 It means acknowledging  
 “I can't be God to you-- I need him, too.”

Marriage means...  
 You are the other part of me  
 I am the other part of you.  
 We'll work through  
 With never a thought of walking out.  
 Marriage means...  
 Two imperfect mates  
 Building permanently  
 Giving totally  
 In partnership with a perfect God.  
 Marriage, my love means us!

### **Context:**

**Περί δε** - “Now-Concerning” KJV  
 -NIV- Now for the matters you wrote about  
 -HCSB About the things you wrote  
 -ESV Now concerning the matters about which you wrote  
 Paul is answering questions.

## Question Divisions

### 1 Cor 7:1-2

**Now concerning** the things whereof ye wrote unto me: It is good for a man not to touch a woman.

2 Nevertheless, to avoid fornication, let every man have  
KJV

### 1 Cor 7:25

**25 Now concerning virgins** I have no commandment of the Lord: yet I give my judgment, as one that hath obtained mercy of the Lord to be faithful.

KJV

### 1 Cor 12:1

**Now concerning** spiritual gifts, brethren, I would not have you ignorant.

KJV

### 1 Cor 16:1-2

**Now concerning** the collection for the saints, as I have given order to the churches of Galatia, even so do ye.

2 Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come.

KJV

## I. Honoring God in Marriage – Verses 1-7, 10-11, 39-40

**Verse 1:** Most of the preachers I know that are conservative, and good preachers, will exegete these passages the same. They will, however, skip one aspect of this passage. Paul is talking about sex before marriage but he is also talking about celibacy. They don't

even mention that. You might say that's not what Paul is talking about. Well, here it is.

**1 Cor 7:7**

7 I wish that all men were as I am. But each man has his own gift from God; one has this gift, another has that.

NIV

That a man would forgo marriage and sacrifice the gift of sex is foreign to our culture. I want you to know that there are many who have dedicated their lives to Christ and given their bodies, souls, and spirits to God for His purpose in ministry and the gospel. They sacrifice having a family, children, and posterity. Their family name may die out with their death. That's sacrifice. Many men have experienced divorce and never remarried and stay pure for the cause of Christ. That's a great spiritual sacrifice.

Jesus even speaks about this after the Jewish leaders tried to trap Him in questions about marriage. There is a phrase in Jesus' response I can bet you never heard a preacher mention.

**Matt 19:3-12**

3 Some Pharisees came to him to test him. They asked, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for any and every reason?"

4 "Haven't you read," he replied, "that at the beginning the Creator 'made them male and female,' 5 and said, 'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh'? 6 So they are no longer two, but one. Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate."

7 "Why then," they asked, "did Moses command that a man give his wife a certificate of divorce and send her away?"

8 Jesus replied, "Moses permitted you to divorce your wives because your hearts were hard. But it was not this way from the beginning. 9 I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for marital unfaithfulness, and marries another woman commits adultery."

**10 The disciples said to him, "If this is the situation between a husband and wife, it is better not to marry."**

**11 Jesus replied, "Not everyone can accept this word, but only those to whom it has been given.** 12 For some are eunuchs because they were born that way; others were made that way by men; and others have renounced marriage because of the kingdom of heaven. The one who can accept this should accept it."

NIV

Could Jesus be saying that there are no excuses for sexual immorality, no matter how you were born or what has happened to you since. Your spiritual life is more important. This area of truth is so deep that Jesus says not everyone can accept this word.

Paul says that it is good that if a man can not touch a woman.

**Greek: ἅπτω** - "to touch" or "fasten to." To kindle i.e., fire  
To cling or lay hold of. Carnal or unlawful intercourse.

Translations:

May I make the unequivocal biblical point here that the bible says a man is not to have sex before marriage. Abstinence before marriage is biblical. Marriage brings about purity in the sexual relationship.

~ Commitment, trust, dignity, and honor are all results of marriage.

Why? Because we united ourselves to the Lord (6:17)

**Verse 2:**

Passion and immorality in the world may lead one to marry. This does not mean you marry the first person who will say yes. Paul's not cutting corners. He's simply answering a question they asked.

MARRIAGE IS NOT SO MUCH FINDING THE RIGHT PERSON as it is being the right person.

Charles W. Shedd, *Letters to Karen*

**Verse 3:**

Paul uses two words in Verse 3 to make his point.

One refers to paying a debt or an obligation.

The other refers to: Rendering, performing, or yielding.

Anyway you translate this it refers to conjugal rights in the marriage. Sex is a part of marriage.

**Verse 4:**

Being married means you give up certain rights. You become one flesh.

The body is to be used to honor God. The body is not to be used as leverage.

**Verse 5:**

The only reason for deprivation is through or for reasons of fasting and prayer.

\* The physical relationship in marriage keeps the attacks of Satan at bay.

Depravation or literally destitution causes incontinency or lack of self-restraint.

**Verses 6-7:**

Paul simply states this was his way of saying and giving advice. "I know it is not wrong to be married and I know most people will not be celibate, as I am, so it is my prerogative to suggest this to you." It's better to be single, but if you marry to avoid the temptation in the world, that's ok.

This chapter is needed today due to all the causes of adultery. Love will never keep you together – only commitment.

**Causes of Adultery**

1. Chronic illness or disability of a spouse.
2. False beliefs of "open marriage."
3. Tension, conflict i.e., financial, value conflicts, long periods of separation, in laws, career problems, etc.
4. Critical life issues – Illness, accident, death, uprooted geographically, shift in status - up or down, personal failure, life transitioning, substance abuse, etc.
5. Individual character – Predispositions to adultery.
6. One's needs not being met. Real or perceived.
7. Emotional emptiness
8. False needs for sexual variety.
9. Inability to resist new sexual opportunity i.e., #5.

10. Anger at one's partner.
11. No longer in love. Real or perceived
12. Alcohol or drug addiction.
13. Growing apart.
14. A desire to get a mate jealous.
15. Failure or rejection – on any front.
16. Unexpected success; makes you a target.
17. Lack of conflict resolution skills.
18. "Harmless" flirting – Putting yourself in position to fail.  
Emotional attachments.
19. Failure to maintain religious convictions.
20. Thinking it could never happen to me.

**Verses 10-11: Truths to Note:**

1. A husband and wife are not separate. No divorce.  
\* Paul was not speaking of reasons for biblical divorce that Jesus had already mentioned.

**Matthew 5:31-32**

<sup>31</sup>“It has been said, ‘Anyone who divorces his wife must give her a certificate of divorce.’ <sup>32</sup> But I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for marital unfaithfulness, causes her to become an adulteress, and anyone who marries the divorced woman commits adultery.

NIV

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<sup>3</sup> Some Pharisees came to him to test him. They asked, “Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for any and every reason?”

<sup>4</sup> “Haven’t you read,” he replied, “that at the beginning the Creator ‘made them male and female, <sup>5</sup> and said, ‘For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh’?”

<sup>6</sup> So they are no longer two, but one. Therefore, what God has joined together, let no man separate.”

<sup>7</sup> “Why then,” they asked, “did Moses command that a man give his wife a certificate of divorce and send her away?”

<sup>8</sup> Jesus replied, “Moses permitted you to divorce your wives because your hearts were hard. But it was not this way from the beginning. <sup>9</sup> I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for marital unfaithfulness, and marries another woman commits adultery.”

<sup>10</sup> The disciples said to him, “If this is the situation between a husband and wife, it is better not to marry.”

<sup>11</sup> Jesus replied, “Not everyone can accept this word, but only those to whom it has been given. <sup>12</sup> For some are eunuchs because they were born that way; others were made that way by men; and others have renounced marriage because of the kingdom of heaven. The one who can accept this should accept it.”

2. To marry again to another for reasons not biblical causes one to commit adultery. Death, divorce, and abandonment are what I believe to be biblical reasons. (Why many Pastors will not marry those divorced) (1 Corinthians 7:15) and (Matthew 5:32)

3. Divorce is not the unpardonable sin. You ask for forgiveness and move on. The scripture says if you offend in one part of the law you offend in all parts of the law. Divorce is a serious subject, and one God takes serious; But God takes all our sin seriously.

Marriage is a picture of God's relationship with the church. We are His bride, and He is our groom. He has no provisions for forsaking, separating, or abandoning the bride.

However, the New Testament speaks of forgiveness and grace. Jesus is the cycle breaker. You must not walk around like you got a big "D" stuck on your forehead. Be cleansed, be healed, and be productive.

### **Verse 39-40:**

If one dies, the partner is free to remarry, yet it must be one who is a Christian. "He must belong to the Lord." "Equally yoked."

\* Again, Paul says – to stay single is preferred. But it's ok.

### **Closing:**

ON A TELEVISION TALK SHOW some time ago, the guest was an actor, well-known for his romantic roles on film. Predictably, he was asked, "What makes a great lover?" I am confident everyone watching the show (myself included) expected the standard macho-playboy response. To the surprise of the host and the audience, his answer must have raised eyebrows all across America. It went something like this.

"A great lover is someone who can satisfy one woman all her life long, and who can be satisfied by one woman all his life

long. A great lover is not someone who goes from woman to woman to woman. Any dog can do that."

Wow! May his tribe increase.

- Charles R, Swindoll, *Strike the Original Match*

\* If one will have an affair with you, they will have an affair on you!

Honor God with your body in marriage.