

# **"Honoring God with Our Bodies"**

**1 Corinthians 7:8-9;12-14, 15-16, 17-38**

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**Part 4 - 3/14/10**

## **Introduction:**

SEVERAL YEARS AGO, when I was speaking at Moody Bible Institute, a lady wrote me a note saying, "I didn't worry about getting married. I did leave my future to God's will. But every night I hung a pair of men's pants on the bed and knelt down and prayed this prayer, 'Father in heaven, hear my prayer. And grant it if you can. I've hung a pair of trousers here. Please fill them with a man.'" Isn't that a great letter?

Well, I read that the next week when I got back to the church I pastored in Fullerton, California. It didn't fit my sermon; I just rammed it in because I thought it was such a great letter. The father and the older son of a family I knew were in the church, but the mother was home with a sick daughter. When I read the woman's note, I watched them. The father just cracked up laughing, but the boy was rather serious. Interestingly, several weeks later I got a letter from the mother who hadn't been in that service. She wrote, "Dear Chuck, I'm wondering if I have something to worry about. I've noticed that our son, when he goes to bed at night, has this bikini hanging over the foot of his bed."

## **II. Honoring God in Singleness: Verses 8-9**

### Several Thoughts:

When I was in singles ministry we were hammered with "Be yourself." "Don't just seek marriage and a partner to be fulfilled." "You should be happy as you are."

All true! Yet, Paul does not say that to desire marriage is wrong. It's how you create Godly seed. We populate the planet with children of godly parents. That's God's original plan.

The admonitions are true and needed, but a desire to wed is not sin.

- \* I think many of us have a God-given desire to marry.
- \* Loneliness is not fun.
- \* Companionship and life-building are good works.  
"A man who finds a good wife, finds a good thing." – the bible says.
- \* It is better to marry than live in a state of lustful frustration.
- \* All the good advice I got from men about singleness were always married.
- \* Don't let people who have made a wreck of their lives talk you out of a good thing.

FOUR-YEAR-OLD Suzie had just been told the story of "Snow White" for the first time in her life. She could hardly wait to get home from nursery school to tell her mommy. With wide eyed excitement, she retold the fairy tale to her mother that afternoon. After relating how Prince Charming had arrived on his beautiful White Horse and kissed Snow White back to life, Susie asked loudly:

"And do you know what happened then?"

"Yes, said her mom, "they lived happily ever after."

"No, responded Susie, with a frown, " ....they got married."

- Cecil Osborne, *The Art of Understanding Your Mate*

Sometimes people project their own marriage results onto everybody else.

Listen to these comments:

IT DOESN'T TAKE LONG for the newlyweds to discover that "everything in one person nobody's got." They soon learned that a marriage license is just a learner's permit, and ask with agony, "Is there life after marriage?"

An old Arab proverb states that marriage begins with a prince kissing an angel and ends with a bald head man looking across the table at a fat lady. Socrates once told his students, "By all means marry. If you get a good wife, twice, blessed you will be. If you get a bad wife, you'll become a philosopher." Count Herman Keyserling said it well when he stated that "the essential difficulties of life do not end, but rather begin with marriage."

Joe Aldrich, *Secrets to Inner Beauty*

I will use this as an opportunity to help my single folk.

Be patient, date properly, go through the process, (get counsel, from trusted, honest people). Make sure you are in God's will –

- You can't know God's will if you are living in sin.

\* Go through courtship

\* Make sure what you're doing is biblical.

\* A bad marriage only shows up after it's too late.

\* Nothing better than a good marriage; nothing worse than a bad one.

### **III. Honoring God When Unequally Yoked: Verses 12-14**

- Once the Holy Spirit puts it in scripture – It's of God.

In Corinth, many people were coming to Christ, and they wanted to divorce their spouses. Paul says don't do that.

The catch is this – If they want to stay – live with them.

Why?

1. Many unbelievers are better spouses than Christians.
2. Honor your commitment.
3. You are their greater hope of sanctification (Salvation).
4. Your children are worth it.

Biological parents are best – in most cases. I have seen times that this was not the case. Abuse, etc.

#### **IV. Honoring God in Abandonment: Verses 15-16**

This passage has been debated for years. It is quite clear to me what it says.

#### **Thoughts:**

1. God wants us to live in peace. Romans 12:18. "As far as it depends on you be at peace with all men."  
However, evangelism is not a reason to fight a separation if the unbeliever wants to leave.
2. The word "bound," comes from the word "slave" - δούλος – "a bondage." You are not to be in bondage if the unbeliever wants to go due to your Christian beliefs. i.e. attendance, tithing, serving, honesty, etc.
3. If there is death, adultery, or abandonment the person is free to remarry. That's the bible.

This is why ministers do not marry any and everybody. Some believe that if the couple sins they sin with them.

I have always struggled with this. I feel torn between biblical principles. A shepherd would not turn out his sheep to the local authorities or the world for spiritual help. I also feel at times I disobey the Commands of scripture.

"So, you want to be a Pastor?"

- Many of you are in a second marriage that has worked and has been wonderful. These are success stories.
- Some have repeated their mistakes over and over.
- The only thing worse than a bad marriage, is a second one.

## **V. Honoring God in All Situations: Verses 17-38**

### **Verse 17:**

Believe it or not, I still believe God assigned us all a place in life.

Greek: assign = distribute, give, difference between.

We are never fulfilled until we find our assigned place in life.

### **Verses 18-20:**

Romans and Greeks saw circumcision as an embarrassment. This was probably not a big problem in Corinth, but there was a surgical procedure done in these days to make it appear that a man was not circumcised. As he bathed in public and worked out at the gym, he would appear as other men.

The term is also used of Jews and Gentiles.

- \* If we take this a bit further, we can spiritually see that Paul is saying something we need to hear.
- \* Life situations, looks, body, etc., do you no good. Purity and keeping God's laws is what counts.

## **Slaves**

Get your freedom if you can, but you are truly free in Christ. You were bought by God and truly belong to no one but Him!  
Amen!

## **Verse 25 ff. Virgins**

### **Verse 25:**

Paul has a spiritual mind and has godly advice.

### **Verse 26:**

Your Christianity does not have to change your life situation. It can enhance it.

### **Verse 27:**

"Chillax."

### **Verse 28:**

Marriage brings with it greater responsibility in life. Even God given responsibility, a man must care for his wife and family.

A single has more time to serve Christ.

These responsibilities are quite obvious.

### **Verses 29-31:**

Cults teach marriage in heaven. Not so. Paul says, focus on eternity the time is short.

1. Marriage – Not eternal
2. Mourning – Not eternal
3. Stuff – Not eternal

Get the picture?

**Verses 32-35:**

Worry more about the kingdom than getting married.

**Lesson:** Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things will be added unto you.

**Fathers: Verses 36-38**

If the fathers arranged marriage, they were now in confusion as to how to handle this problem with Christian principles involved.

If you think you are not being fair to your virgins, then let them marry. But if you do marry – marry one man not 4.

A LADY WANTED TO MARRY FOUR DIFFERENT MEN in her lifetime. She said each one would help her with the four things she needed most. First, she wanted to marry a banker. Second, a movie star. Next a clergyman. And finally, a funeral director. When asked why, she answered. "One for the money, two for the show, three to get ready and four to go!"

Charles R. Swindoll, *Growing Deep in the Christian Life*

The best way to honor God is to belong to Him and honor Him with faithfulness.

**Song of Solomon 7:10**

<sup>10</sup> I belong to my beloved,  
and his desire is for me.

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**Romans 14:8**

<sup>8</sup> If we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord.  
So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord.

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**Romans 1:6**

<sup>6</sup> And you also are among those who are called to belong to  
Jesus Christ.

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