

One: Desire
1 Corinthians 7:1-17
June 25, 2017
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Intro: The church had problems with an unbridled sexual appetite. They gave in to their desires in order to feel good in the moment or short-term. They wrote the Apostle Paul a letter concerning sexual immorality, marriage, singleness, and divorce. Here is his response:

- I. The desire for _____ and not new.
_____ = anything sexual outside of the marriage of a husband & wife.

1 Corinthians 6:18

Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own **body**.
(ESV)

A. Response for singles (verses 1, 6-9):

1. _____ - _____, satisfies my desires
(Galatians 2:20).
2. Live in _____ - Christ _____ one _____ (Acts 22:16).
3. Understand the _____ (2 Corinthians 13:5). Do you have the desire to be desired due to your loneliness and discontentment?
4. Live in _____ or get married (1 Corinthians 7:5, 8-9; Galatians 5:22-23).

B. Response for the married (verses 2-5):

1. _____ - Christ in me,
_____ (Galatians 2:20).
2. Live in _____ - Christ _____ one _____ (1 John. 3:3).

3. Understand the _____. Do you have the desire for your spouse and will you let them desire you through the gift of sexual intimacy?

4. Live in _____ as married (1 Corinthians 7:5).

II. The desire for _____ (verses 10-16).

_____ = It is not a sin, God did not think it was good (Genesis 2:18), however, sin creates loneliness in humans that are prone to selfishness, sin, unforgiveness and disobedience.

A. Separation (no grounds for divorce).

1. Remain unmarried (verse 11).
2. Reconcile with your spouse (verse 11).

B. Divorce (2 grounds for divorce) - Just because God permits divorce does not mean it is His desire.

1. Un-Christian spouse _____ a Christian spouse (verse 15).

(not) _____ = [δουλόω doulōō] to make a slave of, reduce to bondage.

2. _____ of a spouse (Deuteronomy 24:1-4; Malachi 2:16; Matthew 19:4-6).

_____ = [Hebrew meaning] a cutting off; dismissal (left to die).

3. Remarriage - marry a _____ = sin (adultery).

Marry a _____ = not sin.

_____ and be _____ to God if that is your case - your marriage will then be blessed by God.

Conclusion: The Apostle Paul desired contentment where God had them and called them to stop the continual cycle of divorce and remarriage. The goal of every Christian should be to see our homes come to Christ and remain holy - not to desire and make decisions about what would make us feel good. (verse 17)

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Small Group Questions

*You do NOT have to answer or discuss every question. Feel free to just pick a few. These are meant to guide you in truth. If you are having trouble answering a question, ask your small group leader to help you. They are committed to helping you develop as an authentic follower of Christ.

The COMMUNITY:

1. What is your favorite small group memory?

Into the WORD/APPLICATION:

Here are some suggested sites in order to dive deeper into God's Word: blueletterbible.org, desiringgod.org/articles/all, biblos.com, ccel.org, logos.com, connect.ligonier.org, thegospelcoalition.org/channel/bible-and-theology.

1. Read 1 Corinthians 7:1-5 and answer the following questions:

- a. Why does Paul commend sex as good in a church where sexual immorality is rampant?
- b. How can verses 3-5 be applied in a non-abusive way? How is it often applied in an abusive way? (for further study read: <http://www.desiringgod.org/articles/sexual-intimacy-and-the-rights-over-a-spouses-body-in-marriage>)

2. Read 1 Corinthians 7:6-8 and answer the following questions:

- a. Why does Paul commend singleness?
- b. What are the benefits of being single?
- c. How can Coastal be more conscientious of those who are single? In other words, how can Coastal best minister to those who are single?

3. Read 1 Corinthians 7:10-17 and answer the following questions:

- a. What does Paul mean when he says that the unbeliever is made holy because of the believer?
- b. Paul ties marriage to the bigger picture; being heralds of the gospel (v 16). How can you faithfully proclaim the gospel in your marriage?