

1 Corinthians 7:1-9

How the Gospel Relates to Marriage and Singleness

RD v1-7

1 Corinthians 7 is what Bible Scholars refer to as a Corrective Epistle

A) Paul is writing to the believers in Corinth to help correct and solve problems that were going on in the church there.

B) Looked at Chapters 1-6 Paul is writing to address some of the problems he had heard about

1) We read back in Chapter 1 – people from the family of someone named CHLOE – visited Paul and was like – “You should see what is going on in Corinth”

C) Whoever these people from CHLOE’s family were they must have been reputable family – because the Holy Spirit inspired Paul to write

He is addressing the problems they told him about

A) Division in the Church, believers suing each other, and gross immorality

B) But in Chapter 7 Paul switches gears and begins to answer questions that the Church in Corinth asked Paul about in a letter

Now concerning the things of which you wrote to me:

C) Now we don’t have a copy of that letter- all we have is Paul’s answers

Sort of like Jeopardy – We have the answer and we are trying to figure out the question.

A) Paul is saying Alex – I will take Corinth for \$1,000

B) We have to guess what the question was.

C) The question might have been something like this:

D) Paul we live in this sex crazed culture here in Corinth –

1) Sexuality immorality is rampant

Before we were Christians we knew how to meet someone – we knew what to do with them when we found them

A) And we knew how to get rid of them when we were done with them

B) But now we are Christians – following Jesus – 1) so how are we supposed to relate to members of the opposite sex – prior to marriage

C) And what are things supposed to look like and function after we are married.

D) That might not have been the exact question but it is definitely along the lines of the questions – based on Paul’s answers here in Ch.7

How the gospel relates to marriage and singleness – 1st Marriage

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

A) Don’t touch a woman – not talking about – casual handshake or pat on the back – bump into – coodies

B) Paul is talking sexually here – talking about being intimate - ² Nevertheless, because of sexual immorality, let each man have his own wife, and let each woman have her own husband.

C) How to live for Jesus in a sex crazed culture?

1) Get married and enjoy each other

#1 God created sex – It was meant to be enjoyed

A) God created us with certain drives or appetites

B) We can only go a matter of moments without air / short time without water / a little longer without food.

1) Those are needs that we have – appetites we are given – we thirst – we hunger

C) But we have also been created with other needs. – We have been uniquely made in the image of God

1) Created for relationships – God and others

D) We have a need for love, a need for affection, a need for connection and acceptance.

Part of God's design is that men and women would connect on a sexual level in Marriage

A) God made us with a Sex drive – Sex was a part of God's blessing for man –

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 and subdue it; have dominion over – Genesis 1:28

B) God blessed them – and Said – Be fruitful and multiply – Guess what – that happens through sex

1) The Sexual relationship is part of God's blessing

C) But Pastor Rob sex is all about procreation – that is it's only purpose.

1) Some in the church have taught that

D) I would beg to differ – one reason why- though there are many –

Here is One – There is a book in the Bible that God inspired – CANNON –

A) The Book is called the Song of Solomon

B) It is a book that talks a lot about the sexual relationship between a husband and wife –

1) SOS goes into some graphic detail sex

C) Some Jewish rabbi's wrote that a man should not even read the book until he was 30 years old.

But here is what is interesting about SOS – the book talks a lot about the intimacy between a husband and wife – How to be enjoyed

A) There are eight chapters in the book lots of references to kids - and it never once mentions kids

B) God gave man sexual intimacy to be a blessing in the marriage relationship –

1) That was a part of his original design – Point #1 God created sex – 1st man & woman one flesh – Marriage

C) But here is our point #2 Sin ruined God's original design – **Why there is sexual immorality**

We are fallen people. – We live in a fallen world

A) Now it is important that we understand the implications of that statement.

B) Sometimes people like to think that they are good – but the problem is the world that we live in is bad – fallen

1) Because we live in a fallen world – it is really hard for us to be good.

C) That is not a proper view of humanity after the fall

D) The Bible teaches that when sin entered into the world that it didn't just affect the world

1) it affected us.

There wasn't just external affects there were also internal affects – we became broken

A) The impulses within us became broken by sin

B) The Drive for food- though wonderful – smells and taste buds – not just bland -why ?

1) God saying I made food for you – enjoy -

C) But sin takes the natural drive for food – leads to gluttony – bulimia – Anorexia –

This drive for relationships is natural-but sin ruins

A) Fallen people living in a fallen world – our relationships get affected **by jealousy – co-dependency and abuse**

B) Natural drive for sex – gets perverted – taken out the marriage relationship

C) Sex becomes more about using others – seeing how someone else can fulfill me

1) Sexual immorality – Porn – Prostitution

D) Sin leads to even greater perversion of what God designed – as the purpose for SEX –

1) seen Homosexuality – Lesbian

Paul broke it down this way in Romans 1

²¹ because, although they knew God, they did not glorify *Him* as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. ²² Professing to be wise, they became fools, ²³ and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man—and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things. - Idolatry

Result: Want to live to please yourself – not me – go for it

²⁴Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves..... ²⁶For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. ²⁷Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due.

Paul is writing to these believers in Corinth who like us were living in the midst of this sexual perversion

A) Rampant with sexual immorality – Porn, adultery, prostitution, fornication, homosexuality – their own version of sex trafficking

B) God created sex – but sin ruined it

C) Point #3 The gospel redeems what sin distorted

Impact of the gospel - In following Jesus – we learn this:

A) The Marriage relationship is the proper setting where sexual intimacy & enjoyment is to take place.

B) Done right it is a pic of the gospel

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

C) Let a husband render to his wife the affection due her – likewise the wife to her husband

Render = reward – reward her with the affection that is due her – due him

A) I want to note a couple of things here –

B) First note that Paul mentions the husband responsibility first and then the wife

C) Why? That is God's design in marriage

Husbands are to love their wives as Christ loved the church

A) We love Jesus because he first loved us –

B) IN OTHER WORDS - Our love for Jesus is a response to his love for us

C) So too in the marriage relationship, when a wife is being loved well by her husband –

1) she naturally responds with love back

D) Affection is a broad word – 5 Love languages – 5 ways of showing affection

1) Time and attention – off phone fully engaged

2) Gifts – giving

3) Words of affirmation – Complimenting – encouraging – verbal affection- tell him you appreciate- respect

4) Acts of service – Doing things for other

5) Physical touch – **Physical affection**

D) The key to marriage is discovering what is the primary way your spouse likes to and needs to receive affection –

1) And seeking to show them that affection in that way

E) Here in our text this word affection Paul is relating to that last one – Physical touch –

1) physical or sexual intimacy

Now this is what guys often miss in the marriage relationship especially when it comes to sex

A) Been said that when it comes to sex – a guy is like a microwave – heats up in a matter of minutes

B) Woman is like a Crock pot – Takes time – takes conversation –

1) It can start in the morning with a hug and kiss and a text in the afternoon -

C) Takes romance – she has to feel safe and valued

D) We could interpret this passage Paul –

Husband give your wife the affection that is due her –

1) To mean - figure out how she is to be loved – Show her that kind of affection -

My wife – Acts of service - She didn't marry a handy man – her dad was carpenter

A) I was intimidated – THANK GOD FOR YOUTUBE – I have learned how to do things –

B) She loves when I do home projects -Sweaty – Hot

1)Part of me showing her affection – she also appreciates words of affirmation

C)One thing that I find so intriguing about SOS is the woman is **the one expressing her sexual desire**

1)But it is **always after** – Solomon has taken the time to be with her invest in that relationship

D)God is trying to tell us something men{

1)Understand the Importance of building our relationship with our spouse

2)The picture SOS of Solomon paints is the wife responding to being given the affection due her.

So the principle that God created sex to be expressed and enjoyed in marriage

A)Is built on a much deeper principle that is connected to the gospel

B)And that principle is given to us in V. 4

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.

C)Principle Your body doesn't belong to you – belongs to your spouse –

1)and you are to give of yourself for the betterment of another

Now before you push back on that – feminist

A)Understand That is the basic principle of Christianity –

B)the Bible declares that you no longer belong to yourself –

19 Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? 20 For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's. 1 Corinthians 6:20

C)You belong to God – You have been bought with a price –

1)Peter says **not corruptible things like silver or gold – Precious blood**

Nothing on this planet was valuable enough to redeem you and restore you relationship with God

A)God stepped in – sent his son – Cross – Blood – Blood bought

B)You belong to God – So glorify God in your body.

C)Think of it this way –

You are not going to go into your neighbors garage/ borrow his tools / his car without asking – Right?

A)Why? Those things belong to your neighbor –

B)you need his permission before you seek to use them

C)In similar way – Your body belongs to God – you need his permission on how you use your body.

D)Here Paul applies that same principle to marriage – your body is not yours it belongs to the Lord

1)AND TO YOUR SPOUSE

This is the basic principle of Christianity is we are to live like Jesus and seek to build up others and meet the needs of others

A)Point #4 The gospel points us to the principle of preference

B) Philippians 2 is a great marriage passage

3 Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. 4 Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.

C)Esteem others – Value others – by putting the needs of others above yourself –

1)Marriage esteem your wife – husband – their interest above yours

D)Why would I want to do that? Blesses God and it will bless your spouse too.

There is an amazing thing that happens when you start showing interest in the things that interest your spouse

A) You start getting interested in the things that interest your spouse

B) I like watching football – especially College – Denise had no interest

1) But she knew I liked it – my love language – time and attention

C) She gets into it – Yelling at the TV – rooting for the other team

When you get two people who get this – I am not going to look out for my interest only – My Spouse

A) Two people trying to esteem each other and valuing each other –

B) It is like watching two people who really no how to dance – beautiful – GRACEFUL inviting

C) Paul goes on to say: This is the example of Jesus – He esteemed our need –

1) as greater than his position and comfort

D) Left heaven – gave up his body to the cross in order to bless us – save us advance us

Paul says – You live by that same principle –

A) Your body – your life doesn't belong to you – bought with a price

B) So you give of your self – your body in order to bless others

C) In marriage – this gospel principle is connected to the marriage bed and the sexual

1) Regular part of how couples show affection to one another

5 Do not deprive one another except with consent (both agree) 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.

A) Food fast – Sex fast – Fasting and prayer – the couple together seeking to become closer to the Lord

B) FOR A TIME – how long do most people fast – few days maybe a week.

C) Don't fast in this area too long – it can open up the door to greater temptation.

1) Satan is going to play on your lack of self-control

6 But I say this as a concession, not as a commandment.

D) I say this as a concession – with a permission is the idea – but this is not a command

E) So the first thing picture that Paul paints here of how the gospel shapes our marriage relationship

1) Married couples – realize that they belong to God – they are to give themselves to each other –

2) the way Jesus gave Himself for us

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 says – I wish you all were as I was

A) Paul was not married – but we know he was married at one time.

B) Paul in Acts 26 giving his testimony –

1) prior to coming to Christ talked about being a part of the religious ruling class – having vote

C) Which would mean he was a member of the Sanhedrin =- 70 rulers

D) Requirement was -you had to be married

1) So what happened to Paul's wife – maybe she died

E) Many Bible scholars believe she left him after he became a Christian

Now Paul says - I wish all men were like me – (Not married)

A) Now why would Paul say that? – down on marriage ?

B) Not at all – Paul was not down on marriage but he was UP on the gospel.

C) Paul knew what Jesus said: Harvest is ripe and the laborers are few

Paul knew that when it comes to the proclaiming and spreading of the gospel –

A) Single people can get more done.

B) For that reason – Paul is saying – **Singleness is not to be castigated but celebrated**

C) Single people have the potential to be way more effective to the Lord – than married people. –

D) More time and less distractions

³² But I want you to be without care. He who is unmarried cares for the things of the Lord—how he may please the Lord. ³³ But he who is married cares about the things of the world—how he may please *his* wife. ³⁴ There is a difference between a wife and a virgin. The unmarried woman cares about the things of the Lord, that she may be holy both in body and in spirit. But she who is married cares about the things of the world—how she may please *her* husband.

A) Those who are not married – way less distraction – way more focused to serve the Lord –

B) Just me and God

1) Get married and suddenly the needs of this other person come into the equation

Denise and I dated 6 months before we got married - and we were married 3 yrs before we had kids.

A) Our lives were devoted 24/7 to serving Jesus. –

B) Youth Pastor and the Young adults pastor here at CV – 7 nights a week

1) We poured our lives into serving Jesus and loved it

C) We were so focused on serving – that our Pastor Brian B – had to tell me- **Don't come to Church on Sunday nights –**

D) You need to take that night off – just you and Denise –

1) we did that - even though not sure we needed to – Fun serving Jesus together

Then our son Aaron was born – Now I am out six night a week and Denise was home with our baby

A) I started to experience what Paul is saying here – I started caring about the needs of my wife – more

B) I really don't want to be here tonight – I would rather be home with my wife and son.

C) That is what happens when you have a family

Paul says- I wish you all were like me – Paul chose a life of celibacy for the sake of the gospel

A) Paul thought we need more people who can be wholly committed to the gospel –

B) However V.7b But each one has his own gift from God, one in this manner and another in that.

C) Paul saw his ability to be single as being a gift from the Lord –

1) Paul came to a place where he either no longer had a desire for sexual intimacy or was just able to keep it in Check

D) I think it hedged from his mindset – My body belongs to the Lord

1) I will glorify God with my body

E) But Paul was well aware that not everyone who is single has that Gift

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.

A) Paul says to single folk if your sexual drive and desire is going to be a constant distraction for you in walking with Jesus – serving Jesus

B) Constantly tempted – it would be better for you to get married then to burn with passion –

C) Singleness is not for everyone – Marriage is a gift – singleness is a gift too

Note the context of v.8 Paul is talking in contrast about marriage vs singleness

A) His Contrast – which is better – gospel sake – singleness can be better

B) But if sexual desire is a distraction for you in serving Jesus – by all means get married

C)Reason I point that out again – is this

1) this verse has been used by single people who get involved pre-marital sex.

Feel like they can't stop having premarital sex

A)I guess we should just get married – better to marry than to burn

B)Seen Christian people rush into marriage before they were ready – based on that principle

1)Better to marry than to burn

C)That is not what this is talking about

1)Not talking about two people who are already involved sexually/ can't get a handle on their passions

³ For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality; ⁴ that each one of you know how to control his own body in holiness and honor, ⁵ not in the passion of lust like the Gentiles who do not know God:

1 Thessalonians 4:3-5

A)Paul is saying as a follower of Christ – you have the Holy Spirit in you

B)He is going to prompt, convict and empower

C)You should know how to control your own body and walk in holiness in this area.

D)If you can't do that as a couple – better to break up – grow in the Lord and not rush into marriage

1 Corinthians 7:8 better to marry than to burn

A)is talking about an overall mentality and desire

B)Better to be single – but I just can't get past this desire to be married

1)Desire for companionship –and the distraction of sexual desire

C)So I am understanding – I don't have the gift of celibacy – so unless I get it – pray for wife

1)Pray for a Husband

So as we wrap up tonight – How does the gospel shape our marriages and singleness

A)We understand – our lives -including our bodies belong to God – bought with a price

B)Glorify God in with our bodies – lives

C)In marriage – by serving our spouses and giving them the affection that is due them

D)Preferring their needs above my own – Example of Jesus

In my singleness – My life – my body are not mine

A)Belong to the Lord. – Glorify with my life

B)Honor the Lord – by living pure

C)Recognizing – God has given me time – resources that can be used for the furtherance of the gospel

D)Best feeling – end of a day or week is feeling spent for Jesus