

The Price of Hedonism

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I Corinthians 7:1-16 ¹Now for the matters you wrote about: It is good to abstain from sexual relations. ²But because there is so much sexual immorality, each man should have his own wife, and each woman her own husband. ³The husband should fulfill his marital duty to his wife, and likewise the wife to her husband. ⁴The wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband. Likewise the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife. ⁵Do not deprive each other, except by mutual consent and for a time, so you may devote yourselves to prayer. Then come together again, so that Satan will not tempt you through your lack of self-control. ⁶I say this as a concession, not as a command. ⁷I wish that all men were as I am. But each man has his own gift from God; one has this gift, another has that. ⁸Now to the unmarried and widows I say this: It is good for them to remain unmarried, as I am. ⁹But if they cannot control themselves, let them marry. For it is better to marry than to burn with passion. ¹⁰To the married I give this command (not I, but the Lord): A wife must not separate from her husband. ¹¹But if she does, she must remain unmarried or else be reconciled to her husband. And a husband must not divorce his wife. ¹²To the rest I say this (I, not the Lord): If a brother has an unbelieving wife and she is willing to live with him, he must not divorce her. ¹³And if a woman has an unbelieving husband and he is willing to live with her, she must not divorce him. ¹⁴For the unbelieving husband is sanctified through his believing wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified through her believing husband. Otherwise your children would be unclean, but now they are holy. ¹⁵But if the unbeliever leaves, let him go. The believing brother or sister is not bound in such cases. God has called you to live in peace. ¹⁶How do you know, wife, whether you will save your husband? Or how do you know, husband, whether you will save your wife? (BSB)

I. Here are the key details of this passage.

- A.** The Corinthians sent Paul a letter asking him about certain matters that the church was **struggling** with. We do not have this original letter. V. 1
- B.** **Abstaining** from sex is the best default. Once a person has committed sexual immorality, they have **altered** their own body and now have to deal with this as well. V.1, 6-8

I Corinthians 6:18 Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a man can commit is outside his body, but he who sins sexually sins against his own body. (BSB)

Song of Solomon 8:4 O daughters of Jerusalem, I adjure you: Do not arouse or awaken love until the time is right. (BSB)

- C.** The only godly outlet for sexual activity is through the **covenant** of marriage. V. 1-3, 9
- D.** Separation from each other should be **mutually** agreed upon and for a set time to seek God. V. 4-5 Self-control is a main factor in this.
- E.** Divorce is **not** an option for a believing couple in which there has not been adultery or abuse. If this happens then remarriage is **not** an option either. V.10-11

F. Being a non-believer is not a valid reason for a divorce. We are instructed not to marry unbelievers but once we do, we are to stay married to them. V. 12-13

II Corinthians 6:14-15 Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers. For what partnership can righteousness have with wickedness? Or what fellowship does light have with darkness? What harmony is there between Christ and Belial? Or what does a believer have in common with an unbeliever? (BSB)

G. Children without a father in the home are considered unclean. There are various understandings of this. The most understood explanation of this is the statistics of problems associated with not having dad in the home. V. 14

II. How can we apply these truths to our life?

A. The teaching is clear. Christians must marry only another Christian. Once you go against this you are to remain married to them. If you get a divorce, it is God's perfect will for you to stay unmarried.

B. A rich fulfilling life can be lived without getting married.

C. We must not awaken our sexual appetites until we are married.

D. Let us separate ourselves from the world. May our number 1 identity be that we are children of God. May we rid ourselves of the things that are contrary to this.

I John 3:1-3 ¹Behold what manner of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God. And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know Him. ²Beloved, we are now children of God, and what we will be has not yet been revealed. We know that when Christ appears, we will be like Him, for we will see Him as He is. ³And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as Christ is pure. (BSB)