

Husbands, Wives and Singles

1 Corinthians, Vol. 10

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1 Corinthians 7:1-7

Paul answered some questions that had been written to him, and we get to benefit from the answers. Everything in this introductory paragraph will be . . .

- I. **For Singles**
- II. **For Husbands and Wives**

1 Corinthians 7:1: *Now concerning the things about which you wrote, it is good for a man not to touch a woman.*

Things about which you wrote tips us off that this section is the beginning of Paul responding to things the church in Corinth had written to him about. We'll see more such statements later in the book.

Good is a word that plays a prominent role in the chapter. It appears in verses 1, 8, and 26. It's like "*It's **good** if you can get outdoors and exercise several days each week.*" That's not a moral command, but it's wise advice and it will serve you well if you follow it. In this verse, **good** apparently means **able not to use your liberty to be married**.

Not to touch is a euphemism for sexual activity. It's used exactly that way in Genesis 20:6 in the LXX.

To Singles: Be thankful . . .

1 Corinthians 7:2: *But because of immoralities, each man is to have his own wife, and each woman is to have her own husband.*

To Singles: Remain . . .

To Husbands and Wives: The command requires . . .

1 Corinthians 7:3-4: *The husband must fulfill his duty to his wife, and likewise also the wife to her husband. The wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband does; and likewise also the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife does.*

To Husbands and Wives:

1. Your obligation in the physical part of your relationship is . . .
2. Withholding sexual fulfillment from your spouse is . . .
3. In conjugal matters, a wife has exactly . . .

1 Corinthians 7:5: Stop depriving one another, except by agreement for a time, so that you may devote yourselves to prayer, and come together again so that Satan will not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.

To Husbands and Wives:

1. **Normal** for marriage is . . .
2. The only exception is an interruption in normal sexual relations that meets three criteria (see also 7:32-34a):
 - a. By . . .
 - b. For a . . .
 - c. For . . .
3. Whenever husband and wife are physically separated, . . .

1 Corinthians 7:6: But this I say by way of concession, not of command.

The meaning is that **marriage is permitted but not commanded**. The word translated **concession** occurs only here in the New Testament. The literal translation would be something like *fellow-feeling* or *common understanding*. It's common knowledge and an obvious thing that God created people male and female that He designs for the human race to perpetuate itself through the vehicle of marriage.

Marriage is honorable: Hebrews 13:4: *Marriage is to be held in honor among all, and the marriage bed is to be undefiled; for fornicators and adulterers God will judge.*

Marriage is normal: Genesis 2:24: *For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother, and be joined to his wife; and they shall become one flesh.*

To Singles: Marriage is something you . . .

To Husbands and Wives: You no longer have . . .

1 Corinthians 7:7: *Yet I wish that all men were even as I myself am. However, each man has his own gift from God, one in this manner, and another in that.*

As I am refers to Paul's unmarried status. **Gift** is the Greek word *charisma*. It comes from the root *charis*, the word for **grace**. It means a manifestation or a product of God's grace. It is the word Paul uses extensively to describe **spiritual gifts**.

To Singles: Your **gift** is . . .

To Husbands and Wives: Your **gift** is . . .

To Husbands, Wives and Singles: God never places you in any circumstance without giving you . . .

Don't fall into the error of slandering God by saying that you are in an impossible situation or that you cannot do what He tells you to do, in the words of His book. All the resources through the word of God, the Spirit of God and the people of God are available to you. Tap into them and constantly develop better and better ability to apply them.

Other gems:

Single people are not weird or abnormal or less useful to God. Just the opposite!

Nothing will expose your **selfishness** more than being married.

Attention All Husbands!

***If your wife THINKS you have a problem in your marriage,
you HAVE a problem in your marriage!***