
Understanding marriage:

We already know there were problems with sexual sins in the Church at Corinth; (we know this from chapter 5-6); with that in mind, it makes sense that there was a very wrong view of marriage as well. The sins of the city of Corinth had (no doubt) infected the church, which is what we see all too often in churches today.

The people of God at Corinth were learning and emulating the ways of the world rather than walking by faith in the ways of the Kingdom of Christ!

Paul began this section of his letter by answering a letter that was written to him by the church at Corinth.

“Now concerning the things whereof ye wrote unto me”

There is no doubt that the sin of fornication was rampant in the city of Corinth; the church tolerated it; it was overlooked and ignored when the people of God should have mourned because of it, dealt with it, and repented because of this sin in the midst of their assembly!

The city and society of Corinth looked at fornication as “normal” behavior, it was simply the gratification of a natural desire of the body. If you’re hungry you eat; if you desire for sex, you find someone to have sex with!

Sounds alarmingly like our society today; the world lives to feel good and to gratify self and the lusts of the flesh. 1 John 2:15-16, Ephesians 4:22, Titus 2:11-12

Now, before I go too far, Paul is not saying that sexual desires are sinful; but what he is saying is; they are sinful outside of marriage.

Look at the references in JUST in 1 Corinthians:

5:1: There is fornication among you; 6:13: The body is not for fornication; 6:18: Flee fornication; he that commits fornication is sinning against his own body; 7:1: Don’t touch a woman sexually, who is NOT your wife; 7:2: Avoid fornication; 10:8: Don’t commit fornication.

(V1): “It is good for a man not to touch a woman”

Paul is not talking about simple “touch”, but touching sexually. Paul is NOT saying that a husband cannot touch his wife; he IS saying that a single man MUST not have sexual relations with any woman outside of marriage; nor a married man with a woman who is NOT his wife. The same goes for the single woman, who must not enter a sexual relationship with man outside of marriage.

Consider these references:

Genesis 20:1-7, Ruth 2:8-9, Proverbs 6:27-29

(V2): “Nevertheless, to avoid fornication, let every man have his own wife, and let every woman have her own husband”

The emphasis here is on the marriage of one man to one woman, (singular) and one woman to one man. Marriage is the ONLY relationship in which God gives His approval to the sexual relationship. *Hebrew 13:4, Proverbs 5:15-23*

The intimacy of marriage is God-Given; but SIN has terribly corrupted that which God gave to the man and woman to enjoy together in marriage! *Genesis 2:20-24*

Let me emphasize here that Biblical marriage is DEFINED by God to be ONLY between a man and a woman; two of the same sex CANNOT be united together in marriage; that IS NOT marriage, IT IS sin and rebellion against God and His created order.

Nevertheless, to avoid fornication, let every man have his own wife, and let every woman have her own husband.

Paul is not teaching us to go get a wife or husband for the sake of satisfying your sexual appetite; but we must understand the natural desire of both men/women toward the

physical relationship. That desire MUST ONLY be followed by a spiritual relationship (centered in Christ in both the man and woman), and only then into the marriage union.

Bottom Line: The marriage union MUST always come before the conjugal union.

Beloved, in the world, sex outside of marriage is now seen as normal! Men and women live together rather than committing before God to marriage.

Living together has become accepted by many in our society; considered “normal and not sinful behavior”; but know that God has not changed His mind just because it’s 2021; fornication and sexual sins are still sins against God!

But even when men and women do marry; the great sin problem, in marriage is the sole emphasis on the physical/sexual relationship with little to no emphasis on the spiritual. This is why faith in Christ is so important to (ANY MAN OR WOMAN) individually before entering into the covenant of marriage.

Amos 3:3, 2 Corinthians 6:14-18

4. (V3-5): The “Mutual Benevolence” of both the husband to the wife, and the wife to the husband (in regard to) the physical relationship.

- a. Remember, when you married, TWO saith God, become ONE flesh. And so to deny one another of this gift and blessing which you ought to share one with another is sin. The marriage bed ought to be an expression of love to Christ and your love one to another.

i. Defraud ye not, (or do not deprive one another) except it be with consent for a time, that ye may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again, that Satan tempt you not for your incontinency; or lack of restraint.

5. (V6-9): It’s ok to NOT marry; but if you cannot contain yourself, marry, for it is better to marry than to “burn” with lust.