

“To Marry Or Not To Marry!”
1 Corinthians 7:1-9

Introduction:

1. This Morning, We Are Going To Head Back To 1 Corinthians!
 - And We Are Going To Start A New Chapter!
 - Chapter 7!
 - The First 6 Chapters Dealt With Some Major Problems In The Church!
 - And How To Deal With Them Through The Gospel!
 - Problems Like Division / Pride / Immorality!
 - Now - Starting In Chapter 7 - Paul Gets Even More Practical!
 - And Deals With Some Specific Issues / Questions That The Corinthians Had!
 - 7:1a - “Now concerning the things whereof ye wrote unto me!”
 - Both Paul & The Lord Were Interested In:
 - Their Problems / Needs / Questions!
 - And The Lord Is Interested In Our Problems / Needs / Questions As Well!
 - Shows A Great Care & Concern!
2. And In The Chapters To Follow:
 - Beginning With The Verses We Will Look At This Morning:
 - We Will Find That The Bible Is Incredibly Practical!
 - Our Practice Is Woven Throughout With Principles!
 - Our Duty Is Woven Throughout With Doctrine!
 - And You Can’t Get Any More Practical:
 - Than Personal Relationships!
 - And One Of The Major Questions That The Christians In Corinth Had Dealt With Personal Relationships!
 - “To Marry Or Not To Marry – That Was The Question!”
 - And So - This Is The Question We Will Look At This Morning!
 - And How The Gospel Can Impact Even Our Most Basic Relationships!
 - Whether You Are Single!
 - Or Whether You Are Married!
3. So This Passage / This Message Applies To Each One Of Us!
 - Whether Married Or Single!
 - Read 7:1-9!
 - In These 9 Verses Paul Deals With The 2 Basic Types Of Living – For Christians & Non-Christians Alike!
 - But For Christians – Even Their Marital Status Can Reflect Their Walk / Relationship With God!
 - Paul Looks At:
 - Single Living!
 - Married Living!
 - And Each One Of Us Is In One Of These Situations!
 - So Let’s Hear What The Lord Says!

* First - Let’s Consider:

1. Married Living!

- This Is Paul’s Primary Focus In The First 6 Verses!
- Married Life Has Some Great Benefits & Opportunities!
 - Especially For Christians!
 - Need To Remember - That When The Bible Is Dealing With Single Christians Wanting To Marry - It Is Always To Be With Other Christians!
 - 2 Corinthians 6:14 - “Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?”
 - Even Those Who Are Single Again Because Of Losing Their Spouse!
 - 1 Corinthians 7:39 - “The wife is bound by the law as long as her husband liveth; but if her husband be dead, she is at liberty to be married to whom she will; only in the Lord!”
 - But When A Christian Marries Or Is Married To Another Christian:
 - God Has A Special Plan For That Marriage!
- Marriage Is Designed For Security!
 - 7:1-2 - “Now concerning the things whereof ye wrote unto me: It is good for a man not to touch a woman.

- / Nevertheless, to avoid fornication, let every man have his own wife, and let every woman have her own husband!”
- Paul Begins This Chapter By Explaining In 7:1 That When A Christian Is Living As A Single Person, They Must Guard Their Purity!
 - “It Is Good For A Man Not To Touch A Woman!”
- Remember - Fornication / Immorality Was A Major Issue In Their Community / Culture / And Even Their Church!
 - So Paul Reminds Single Christians The Importance & Virtue Of Remaining Pure!
- But - God Has Also Made People To Have Natural Appetites & Desires!
 - And If A Single Person Is Struggling With Purity – In Body & In Mind – Then Married Life Is For Them!
- “To Avoid Fornication” – Marry!
 - God Designed The Human Body!
 - God Designed Human Appetites & Desires!
 - God Designed Marriage To Fulfill & Satisfy These!
 - Marriage Is One Of The Great Blessings & Gifts God Has Given To Us As Human Beings!
- But “Fornication” – Or Here – Any Kind Of Sexual Immorality:
 - Is An Abuse & A Sin Against God’s Gift!
 - And It Is A Major Problem!
 - The Nature Of This Sin Is Serious!
 - Look Back At Chapter 6!
 - The Temptation To This Sin Is Strong!
 - Look At Our Culture / Own Nature!
- So God Gave Us Marriage!
 - To Keep Us From Sin!
 - Marriage Is Designed For Security!
- If A Single Person Is Struggling With Purity:
 - Then Marry In The Lord & Be Faithful To Your Spouse & Be Faithful With Your Spouse To God!
- If A Married Person Is Struggling With Purity:
 - Remember One Of The Special Reasons God Has Given You Marriage – Your Husband / Wife!
 - To Be Faithful To / Satisfied With Them!
- Marriage Is Designed For Service!
 - 7:3 - “Let the husband render unto the wife due benevolence: and likewise also the wife unto the husband!”
 - When You Are Married:
 - You Need To Remember That Your Marriage Is Not About You – But About Your Spouse!
 - 7:3 Talks About Serving One Another!
 - And A Very Special Kind Of Service!
 - Service Of A Physical Kind!
 - And This Service Is Also A Special Gift From God!
 - This Physical Service Is Expected!
 - It Is Not Put Here As A Suggestion, But In The Form Of A Command!
 - Each Spouse Is To “Render Due Benevolence!”
 - What Does This Mean?
 - Literally - To Give Back / To Pay Back The Kindness That You Owe Them!
 - The Physical Union Between A Husband & A Wife Is Expected / Natural / Blessed / Good / And Right!
 - Hebrews 13:4 - “Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled!”
 - The Physical Relationship Is The Duty Of A Christian Spouse!
 - But It Is For The Delight & Service Of The Other!
 - This Physical Service Is Mutual!
 - It Is The Responsibility Of Both The Husband & The Wife!
 - Marriage Is Designed For Service!
 - If You Are Married, Are You Serving Your Spouse In This Way?
- Marriage Is Designed For Selflessness!
 - 7:4 - “The wife hath not power of her own body, but the husband: and likewise also the husband hath not power of his own body, but the wife!”

- Paul Now Explains “Why” This Physical Service Is So Important & Necessary!
 - It Is Because Of What Happens When You Marry!
 - Genesis 2:24 - “Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh!”
 - When You Marry, You Become “One Flesh” With Your Spouse!
 - And You No Longer Belong To Yourself!
 - You Belong To Your Spouse!
 - And This Requires A Very Self-Less Attitude & Very Self-Less Acts!
- When You Marry:
 - Even Your Body Belongs To Your Spouse!
 - 7:4 - “The wife hath not power of her own body, but the husband: and likewise also the husband hath not power of his own body, but the wife!”
 - “Power” – Authority / Right!
 - The Wife Has Given Herself & Her Body:
 - To Her Husband & For His Benefit!
 - The Husband Has Given Himself & His Body:
 - To His Wife & For Her Benefit!
 - And This “Power” & Right Is Exclusive To Your Spouse!
 - Not To Be Given To Any Other!
- Marriage Is Designed For Selflessness!
 - What A Gift! Because It Is A Picture Of The Kind Of Relationship That God Has With His People!
 - Just As Your Body Does Not Belong To You In Your Spiritual Relationship With God!
 - Remember 6:19-20?
 - Your Body Does Not Belong To You In Your Physical Relationship With Your Spouse!
- So Be As Selfless To Your Spouse!
 - As God Has Been & Is To You!
- Marriage Is Designed For Spirituality!
 - 7:5-6 - “Defraud ye not one the other, 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. / But I speak this by permission, and not of commandment!”
 - Paul Reminds Us Again Here In 7:5:
 - Do Not Rob / Defraud One Another Of The Biblical Use Of Each Other’s Body!
 - This Is So Important!
 - But Then Paul Provides For One Exception!
 - And This Exception Is Something He Is Permitting, Not Commanding! See 7:6!
 - Because Of The Important Nature Of The Marriage Union!
 - But Even This Exception Shows That There Is More Than Just A Physical Union Going On In Marriage!
 - There Is A Union Of Desires / Goals / Concerns / And Even & Especially Prayers!
 - And There Should Be A Freeness & Intimacy Within Marriage To Discuss Such Issues Together – Without Shame!
 - So - What Would Be The Reason For A Husband & A Wife To Abstain From Their Physical Relationship?
 - 7:5:
 - A Certain Reason / Agreement / Time!
 - A Certain Reason:
 - A Serious Situation That Requires Serious Prayer & Fasting! Not Minor Things!
 - A Certain Agreement:
 - “Except It Be With Consent!”
 - Not A One-Sided Decision!
 - A Certain Time:
 - “For A Time!”
 - “Come Together Again!”
 - The Time Must Be Limited! Why?
 - Because The Devil Himself Can Use Your Time Apart To Tempt Your Spouse!
 - When You Are Married – You Need Each Other!
 - Not Only To Help Each Other Thru Trials!
 - But Also To Help Each Other Thru Temptations!

- Marriage Is Designed For Spiritual Reasons As Well!
- Now - Most Of What Paul Has For Us This Morning:
 - Deals With Married Living!
 - Because This Is The Most Natural & Normal Situation In Life!
 - And Married Life Has Some Great Benefits & Opportunities!
 - Designed For Security!
 - Designed For Service!
 - Designed For Selflessness!
 - Designed For Spirituality!

* Next - Look At:

2. ***Single Living!***

- This Is Paul's Focus For Verses 7-9!
- Single Living Has Some Great Benefits & Opportunities As Well!
 - Especially For Christians!
 - As We Have Already Seen – Being Married Is Good!
 - But Being Single Is Good As Well!
- The Goodness Of Being Single!
 - Back To 7:1 - “It is good for a man not to touch a woman!”
 - This Is Dealing On A Purity Level!
 - Not Having A Physical Relationship With Someone You Are Not Married To!
 - That Is Sin - Fornication!
 - This Is Also Dealing On A Practical Level!
 - If You Are Single & Remain Single, In A Very Special Sense – God Says “It Is Good!”
 - If This Is God's Plan & Purpose For Your Life:
 - Then “It Is Good!”
 - Christians Who Are Married Need To Remember This About Christians Who Are Not Married!
 - It Is Not Up To Us To “Match Make!”
 - It Is Between Them & God!
 - And Being Single Is “Good!”
- The Goal Of Being Single!
 - 7:7a - “For I would that all men were even as I myself!”
 - It Seems From These Verses & Others:
 - That Paul Was A Single Man Serving The Lord!
 - And As A Single Man:
 - He Thinks It Would Be Better If Every Christian – Specifically Here, Christian Men – Be Like Him!
 - Single! Not Married! Especially In The Time In Which They Lived! “Present Distress!” (7:26)
 - Why Would Paul Say This?
 - Clue In 7:32-33 - “But I would have you without carefulness. He that is unmarried careth for the things that belong to the Lord, how he may please the Lord: / But he that is married careth for the things that are of the world, how he may please his wife!”
 - When You Are Single:
 - You Can Live Your Life With A Greater Devotion & Dedication To The Lord Than If You Are Married!
 - This Ought To Be The Goal For A Single Christian!
 - To Serve God With More Devotion & Dedication!
 - Is This What Your Goal Is – If You Are Single?
 - Does Not Just Apply To Young Singles!
 - But Also Applies To Those Who Have Become Single Again By Losing Their Spouse!
 - See 7:8!
 - What An Opportunity For A Christian Who Is Single!
- The Gift Of Being Single!
 - 7:7b - “But every man hath his proper gift of God, one after this manner, and another after that!”
 - Whatever Situation You Are In – Consider It A Gift From God!
 - If You Are Married – It Is A Gift!
 - Proverbs 18:22 - “Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing, and obtaineth favour of the

- LORD!”
- Your Spouse Is A Gift From God!
 - Husbands, You Need To Treat Your Wife As A Gift From God!
 - Wives, You Need To Treat Your Husband As A Gift From God!
 - But If You Are Single – It Is A Gift Also!
 - You Need To Treat Your Current Status As A Gift!
 - And Use Your Time / Energy / Money / Life For The Lord!
 - The Grace In Being Single!
 - 7:8-9 - “I say therefore to the unmarried and widows, It is good for them if they abide even as I. / But if they cannot contain, let them marry: for it is better to marry than to burn!”
 - If You Are Single:
 - Either You Have Never Married!
 - Or You Have Lost Your Spouse!
 - Remember That It Is “Good” To Be Single!
 - Because It Carries With It Many Benefits & Opportunities!
 - Biggest Benefit – Being Able To Live & Give Your Life Exclusively For The Lord & His Service!
 - But God Is Still So Kind & Gracious!
 - That If You Feel & Believe That Single Living Is Not For You – Then Marry Another Christian!
 - And Serve The Lord Together!
 - This Is Important:
 - Especially If You Struggle With Self-Control In Your God-Given Natural, Physical, Sexual Desires!
 - “For It Is Better To Marry Than To Burn!”
 - Marriage Is Good Too!
 - And It Is Especially So Much Better, If It Is Going To Help Prevent You From “Burning” With Your Passions & Lusts!

Conclusion:

1. We Can Be So Thankful For The Lord & His Practical Guidance In Dealing With This Question:
 - “To Marry Or Not To Marry!”
 - Not Just A Question Back Then!
 - But A Question That Many Single Christians Have Today!
2. Need To Remember:
 - That Married Living Is Good!
 - And Has Some Great Benefits & Opportunities!
 - But - Single Living Is Also Good!
 - And Also Has Some Great Benefits & Opportunities!
 - So - No Matter What Your Status Is Right Now:
 - Fulfill Your Responsibilities!
 - And Be Faithful To The Lord!
 - Whether You Are Married Or Single:
 - It Is A Great Opportunity To Serve The Lord!
 - If You Are Single:
 - The Opportunity Is To Serve The Lord With A Greater Devotion & Dedication!
 - If You Are Married:
 - The Opportunity Is To Serve The Lord With A Great Partner Through Life!
3. Let God Use Even Your Marital Status To Please & Serve Him!

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