

# PENINSULA CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

*Dear Paul, I have questions...*

## **1 Corinthians 7**

As we come to chapter 7 Paul was presented issues that were prevalent in the church, and he had received questions about the marriage bed, marriage in general, lives as believers and whether or not to marry. He begins to answer some of their specific questions.

### **1 Corinthians 7:1-2**

Verse 1 is often interpreted as “not to marry.”

He points out that temptation is a real problem and if you are not gifted in restraint, you should get married.

- The marriage relationship is how God designed us to live
- Genesis 2:15-25
- A man and a woman created to become one flesh in fully committed relations, fully vulnerable, full access.
- Jesus speaks about marriage in Matthew 19:4-6
- Some in the church of Corinth were trying to seem holier by abstaining from intimacy with their spouses.

### **1 Corinthians 7:3-4**

- These verses are often misinterpreted to mean something they do not. Just like...
- Ephesians 5
- This is not abusive in nature. When you were single your body/self/ownership was individual. As a married couple, that ownership is shared.
- Consider this. Anything you are willing to use your body for is also exposing your

spouse to the same things with their ownership.

- Galatians 5:19-25
- This applies to the marriage bed.
- Hebrews 13:4a Marriage should be honored by all and the marriage bed kept pure.

### **1 Corinthians 7:5-6**

- This is not a command to be lorded over each other, but an opportunity as a couple to come to agreement on wants, need, and desires.
- There should be open communication about hope, and expectations.
- This is a conversation that should be mutually beneficial, with the best for the other in heart and mind.
- Marriage is a complete union where all things that were once owned separately are now jointly owned. Anything that is not submitted in equal ownership is allowing separation, and exclusion from the other person.

### **1 Corinthians 7:7-9**

- Ultimately, he's acknowledging celibacy as a good thing for those already single.
- Some are married, some are not, if single that's good, if married, that's good. Don't pretend to be holy and burn with desire or fight temptation your whole life.
- Better to be married than live a lie.

- Paul often refers to singleness as a gift, like a spiritual gift, it is not for everyone, and takes a strength that comes from God.
- Matthew 19:11-16

### **1 Corinthians 7:10-16**

- Paul is talking to all believers here; He's first referencing an earlier portion of what we just talked about.
- He then dives into examples for them that would have been very real for their time.
  - And ours
- For those without a believing spouse, do life together, don't call it quits.
- If one spouse refuses to live under God's word, Paul mentions they are free to walk away.
  - They are free to rebel, but they are not free of the consequences
- Marriage is a big deal! Not to be entered into lightly or disregarded casually.

### **1 Corinthians 7:17-24**

- Paul is referencing a misinterpretation of following Christ that many new believers were falling prey to.
- In a sense He is saying be Christ where you are. He placed you in your circumstances. He didn't change your circumstances, He changed you.
- He also is very quick to point out the importance of being a slave for Christ and how our service to Him should be reflective in our lives that our time, money, relationships, everything is not our own.
- Don't try to be what you are not. Don't reject what He's called you to.
- It's a heart matter, not a look at me and what I am or doing matter.

- He begins to address their present situation and circumstances
- Persecution was prevalent in this time period

### **1 Corinthians 7:25-28**

- Again, he is speaking about the time they are in!!! This matters.
- If you are currently single and not tied to be married – stay that way!
- Are you currently engaged, get married.
- Neither of you have sinned if you choose either.

### **1 Corinthians 7:29-31**

- As Christians we should accordingly not be preoccupied with earthly circumstances.
- Paul is not encouraging the neglect of proper family duties, but encouraging living as if the time is short. It means that we will not live as if our earthly family was all that mattered, but also live with an eye to eternity.
- A "time is short" attitude will also not indulge the feelings and things of this world. Weeping, rejoicing, and having possessions must not get in the way of following hard after Jesus.

### **1 Corinthians 7:32-35**

- His final point about singleness being a benefit. Your thoughts, your time, your energy and possessions can all be towards working for the Lord.

### **1 Corinthians 7:36-38**

- Don't leave a bride at the altar, especially one almost past her prime. When she is near stricken.

### **1 Corinthians 7:39-40**

- Widows, if you can abstain, more power to you! If the struggle is real, marry a believer.