

**The Corinthian Marriage**  
**1 Corinthians 7:1-16**

Rich O'Toole

01/16/22

**I. Celibacy. 1 Corinthians 7:1-2**

Sexual \_\_\_\_\_ was widespread in Corinth; remember we have previously learned about the major religion of the city that promoted prostitution.

- The gift of celibacy is a wonderful gift; but not everybody has the gift of celibacy; nor is it a \_\_\_\_\_.

**II. Marital affection. 1 Corinthians 7:3-6**

I believe the reason the wife is addressed first in this passage, is because the husband is called to do the \_\_\_\_\_; apart from power of the Holy Spirit, he cannot love as Christ loved! **Ephesians 5:24-25**

- *"The husband and wife may abstain in order to devote their full interest to prayer and fasting; but they must not use this as an excuse for \_\_\_\_\_ separation."* (Wiersbe)

Denying the flesh and becoming more dependent upon the Lord is what \_\_\_\_\_ is all about.

**III. Paul was celibate at this time. 1 Corinthians 7:7-9**

*"Many find themselves in the "grass is \_\_\_\_\_" trap, with single people wishing they were married and married people wishing they were single. Each state is a gift from God."* (Guzik)

- Divorce can be very painful and it's so important to be reminded that God is close to the \_\_\_\_\_ and that includes you.

**IV. Sticking power. 1 Corinthians 7:10-16**

*"Marriage is relatively easy to begin, but it is almost guaranteed to be a challenge to stay with for the long term if \_\_\_\_\_."*

- *"In fact, Paul emphasized the fact that the Christian partner could have a spiritual \_\_\_\_\_ on the unsaved mate"* (Wiersbe)

**V. Practical application.**

1. Don't try to \_\_\_\_\_ your spouse, but trust the Lord.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ for your marriage. **James 5:16-18**
3. \_\_\_\_\_ together in the Lord. **Philippians 2:3**
4. Rebuild friendship and \_\_\_\_\_.

**Small Group Discussion**

*Looking back at your notes from this week's sermon, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged or confused you?*

1. Read **1 Corinthians 7:1-2**. What was Paul's advice for unmarried Christians? What are the advantages of remaining single?  
**2 Corinthians 6:14, Hosea 2:19-20, Song of Solomon 3:5, Isaiah 40:31**
2. Read **1 Corinthians 7:3-6**. What instruction did Paul give for married couples abstaining from physical relations?
3. What is fasting? What are the benefits of fasting? Name some things a Christian can fast from.  
**Acts 14:23, Daniel 10:3, Nehemiah 1:4, Daniel 9:3-5**
4. What are the benefits of honoring the marriage bed? What are the consequences of not honoring the marriage bed?  
**Hebrews 13:4, Proverbs 5:15-19, 1 Corinthians 6:18**
5. Read **1 Corinthians 7:10-16**. If a person becomes a Christian after he has divorced and remarried, what should he do? How can you defend the qualifier Paul used, "I, not the Lord" (**1 Cor. 7:12**), as being equally the authoritative Word of God? (Wiersbe)
6. What are some possible tolls or traits we can use to make a marriage last?
7. Discuss the practical application portion of this sermon.