

Sermon Title: Let's Talk About Sex _____ 1 Corinthians 7:1-17, 25-40

In Ch. 7, Paul is doing a little Q & A with the Corinthian church. They had submitted questions to him in a letter that he now takes time to respond to!

Their questions surrounded a topic that the "Church" has too often remained silent on! But we must not be silent... There is too much at stake! So...

- Let's talk about Sex!

Corinth was a hub for sexual sin & promiscuity... The church wanted to know how to live as Christians in the midst of the culture they were immersed in!

We too live in a sex-crazed culture, where there is rampant sexual temptation, deception, distortion, & abuse! We, like the Corinthians, need practical wisdom in order to honor God with our bodies, our sexuality, & our relationships!

Sex is not a bad thing! It's a gift of God, in the proper context of marriage, for the purpose of procreation, partnership, pleasure, & purity!

- Procreation in marriage – **"Be fruitful and multiply... Fill the earth..."**
- Partnership in marriage – **"It is not good for man to be alone..."** A suitable helper/companion was needed. **"The two shall become one flesh..."**
- Pleasure in marriage – An entire book of the Bible is devoted to the intimacy & pleasure of sexuality within marriage – Song of Songs!
- Purity in marriage – **Vs. 9 "But if they cannot exercise self-control, they should marry. For it is better to marry than to burn with passion."**

Sex is a good thing, a Godly thing, when engaged in according to His design!

- Let's talk about Satan's deception! Going all the way back to the garden!

Satan's deception outside of marriage – **"You shouldn't deprive yourself of what makes you feel good!"** Satan takes something good & distorts it!

God is not depriving us of what is good, He is protecting it for our good!

Words of wisdom – **Vs. 2 "Because of the temptation to sexual immorality, each man should have his own wife and each woman her own husband."**

Satan's deception inside of marriage – **Vs. 5 "Do not deprive one another... so that Satan may not tempt you because of your lack of self-control."**

Words of wisdom – **Vs. 3-4** Give over your conjugal rights & authority to your

spouse so that sex cannot be used as a weapon! Remember its purpose!

- Let's talk about Singleness!

Being single is not a curse, it's a blessing!

Paul says, **"I wish that all were as I myself am** (meaning single)!" On the surface this sounds like a simple statement, but in the Jewish culture of that day, there was much shame associated with singleness!

Words of wisdom – **Vs. 8 "To the unmarried and widows I say that it is good for them to remain single as I am."** Why? **Vs. 32-34**

"I want you to be free from anxieties. The unmarried man is anxious about the things of the Lord, how to please the Lord. But the married man is anxious about worldly things, how to please his wife, & his interests are divided..."

What if we began to see "singleness" as a gift & opportunity, not a burden?

Vs. 35 – "I say this for your benefit, not to lay any restraint upon you, but to promote good order & to secure your undivided devotion to the Lord."

- Let's talk about Staying together in marriage!

Too often we look for an easy way out when things get hard! We must remember our marriage vows... They are for life! Sentence vs. Subscription

There are benefits in marriage even when it's hard! This "partnership" in God's design for marriage can bring about the holy life God calls us to!

Words of wisdom – **"A wife should not separate from her husband (but if she does, she should remain unmarried or else be reconciled to her husband), & the husband should not divorce his wife."** This is a very high view of marriage!

But what if you are "unequally yoked" in marriage (have an unbelieving spouse)?

- There is great benefit in marriage for the unbelieving spouse – salvation!
- There is great benefit in marriage for their children – they are holy!

- Let's talk about Serving the Lord, no matter our circumstance!

Vs. 17 – "Only let each person lead a life that the Lord has assigned to him, and to which God has called him." Whether single or married serve God!

Paul had a strong sense that the return of the Lord was immanent! There was a sense of urgency, so if you are single stay single, if you are married stay married, but serve the Lord. **Vs. 31 "For the present form of this world is passing away."**

Sermon Title: Let's Talk About S_____ 1 Corinthians 7:1-17, 25-40

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- Let's talk about S_____

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Sex is a good thing, a _____ when engaged in according to His design!

- Let's talk about S_____ Going all the way back to the garden!

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- Let's talk about S_____ in marriage!

Too often we look for an easy way out when things get hard! We must remember our marriage vows... They are for life! _____ vs. _____

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- There is great benefit in marriage for their children – _____

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