

# 1 Corinthians

Weeks 3 & 4 (1 Corinthians 5-8)

## Review

Last week, we covered chapters 5 and 6. We saw the Lord providing some soul healing at the end of the night. This week, we will cover chapters 7 and 8.

- ~~1. Sexual immorality (Chapter 5)~~
- ~~2. Disputes and quarrels (Chapter 6)~~
3. Singleness and marriage (Chapter 7)
4. Living by conscience (Chapter 8)

## Singleness, Marriage, and Healthy Sexuality (Chapter 7)

1. Paul has already established (in Chapter 6) that sexual immorality (fornication, adultery, homosexuality, etc.) is out of the question. But is there a healthy, Godly sexuality?
  - a. It's encouraging to know that the church at Corinth had this same question.

## Who Created Sex?

1. In the beginning (Genesis 1:27-28)
  - a. God created male and female, He blessed them and told them to “be fruitful and multiply.”
  - b. The “fruitful” part refers to the man and woman using their bodies in a healthy/fruitful way to satisfy each other in the marriage covenant and through that bring more godly children into the world.
2. SEX (in marriage) IS NOT BAD!
  - a. The enemy has lied to the church for so long and discouraged and perverted godly sexuality in marriage, and mocked and desecrated a true call to celibacy.
  - b. Parents teach their little girls that “boys only want one thing.” So when those girls grow up and get married and their husbands want to enjoy their bodies, those girls remember their training: “he only wants one thing.”

- i. What if we began to teach our young ladies that they are precious and worthy to be protected? That their beauty is a gift from God and one day, when they're married, it will be their joy for their husband to be enraptured by their beauty.
- c. Young boys get pulled right into pornography and cannot find a way out. They get caught, carry shame, and feel like a bad boy.
  - i. What if we taught our boys that God made their eyes and souls to be stimulated by beauty? They have a duty and responsibility to harness their eyes and passion, and one day satisfy their wives by embracing their beauty and satisfying their hearts with love and affection.

## The conclusion of these matters:

1. Sex is a gift
2. It is to be enjoyed and celebrated in marriage
3. Spouses do not have the right to withhold their bodies or affection from one another
4. It may be better not to be married (according to Paul), but not everyone has this gift
5. Don't burn in lust for the sake of principle – get married!

## Marriage

1. Don't leave your spouse
  - a. If you separate for a while, be reconciled to one another
2. Why does God hate divorce? (Malachi 2:16)
  - a. First of all, God doesn't hate divorcees
  - b. Jesus told us that sexual immorality is a reason for divorce
  - c. Marriage is an earthly picture of a heavenly mystery and relationship
    - i. Jesus will never leave His church (which is His bride)
    - ii. When we so easily leave our marriages (without proper grounds), we tarnish the sanctity of marriage and destroy families.
3. What if my spouse isn't saved?
  - a. If he or she will stay in peace with you, you should stay
  - b. You might be just the right person or the ONLY light of Christ to save that person.
    - i. Settle in your heart that God chose you to demonstrate his love to that person



# Singleness

1. Why does Paul believe it is better to be unmarried? (see verses 32-33)
  - a. Time is short and we need to be focused on the call of the Lord
  - b. Married people have to consider their spouses' needs in addition to The Lord
2. True singleness is a gift
  - a. If you are not married and desire to be married, that's a godly desire
    - i. Don't place a law over yourself that you need to remain single. It is far better for you to marry than to burn in lust.
  - b. When celibacy is forced, it provokes all sorts of sexual immorality (see 1 Timothy 4:1-3)
    - i. Thinking about the base actions that have been permitted in certain church organizations because of devout singleness or a vow of celibacy.
    - ii. All of that could be avoided if we just walked in the godly sexuality that our Father created.
  - c. You'll know if you are called to be single! You won't burn with passion!

## Chapter 8 – Living By Conscience

1. Much of Paul's letter to the church at Corinth deals with "letting go of your rights."
  - a. As believers, it is not just our conscience we live by (see verses 9 and 13)
2. The goal is love, not knowledge
3. The knowledge of our freedom in Christ can sometimes make us arrogant, and we do not consider others who have stronger convictions
  - a. EXAMPLE: Dessert before dinner: As an adult, I can easily enjoy a little dessert before dinner and still eat my full meal because "it's good for me." That's how I was raised. However, my children are still growing, and they may get the wrong idea and think that dessert is more important than the meal. If they develop a pattern of eating this way, it will cause problems in their body. Therefore, I will rather forgo my prerogative to have dessert first, so as not to lead the little ones astray.
4. We may have certain rights and freedoms because we have "knowledge" of what Christ provided. But if at any point we discover our freedoms are causing our brothers or sisters in Christ to stumble, we should abstain.