

Vital marriage matters

1 Corinthians 7:1-16, p. 927

I. MARRIAGE: THE IMPORTANCE OF INTIMACY (1 CORINTHIANS 7:1-9).

- A. Some Corinthians promoted celibacy as more spiritual, but sexual intimacy in marriage is God's plan to live morally (7:1-2).
- B. Both husbands and wives must prioritize sexual relations as vital to a healthy, godly marriage (7:3-6).
 - Don't deny your spouse sexual privileges (3).
 - In marriage, our bodies belong to each other (4).
 - Satan's temptations grow stronger when abstaining (5-6).
- C. God's will for some is singleness; for others, marriage (7:7-9).

II. DIVORCE AND REMARRIAGE: THE IMPORTANCE OF PERMANENCE (1 CORINTHIANS 7:10-16).

- A. Married Christians should not divorce, but if they do, they should remain unmarried or reconcile (7:10-11).
 - Uncertainties: Is divorce/remarriage allowed in certain situations (Matthew 5:32; 19:9; Mark 10:10-12; Luke 16:18)?
 - Certainties: When tempted to think there is someone better, God's will is permanence. When we think we must be happy, God's will is our holiness.
- B. Those married to an unbelieving spouse should remain married but is not responsible if the spouse leaves (7:12-16).
 1. By remaining married to an unbeliever, you may spiritually influence your spouse and children (12-14; 1 Peter 3:1-2).
 2. If the unbeliever insists on leaving, the believing spouse has no obligation to resist, but to live peaceably (15).
 3. There is no guarantee anyone can convince an unbelieving spouse to be saved (16).