

Relationships 2020

#5 1 Corinthians.

Introduction:

My wife prefers to take the elevator, but I prefer to take the stairs. I guess we've been raised differently.

Last night my wife told me I had the body of a god. I was afraid to ask which one, but I'm pretty sure it was Buddha.

I was at a wedding recently with my wife, and tried my hand at being romantic. As the music swelled, I leaned over and whispered in her ear: "*You are more beautiful than half the women here...*"

- Corinthian church was made up of people from slaves to the rich and famous.
- The people came out of the decadent lifestyle of the day
- Paul was addressing questions he had been asked.

1. Marriage Rights (and Wrongs)

(a) Tips for Searching Singles

- Don't consider anyone who does not belong to the Lord (ie a believer) 1 Corinthians 7:39

2 Corinthians 6:14 *Do not be yoked together with unbelievers.*

*For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common?
Or what fellowship can light have with darkness?*

(b) Tips for Married Couples

- Honour GOD with your body
 - Old marriage vow: "with my body I thee worship"
- We honour God with our body when we do good for our spouse physically
 - Working, gardening, computer work, home duties...

- Sexually – we were made to be intimate

1 Corinthians 7:4 *The wife does not have authority over her own body but yields it to her husband. In the same way, the husband does not have authority over his own body but yields it to his wife.*

- Don't deprive each other except by agreement
 - Taking liberties by force is not “by agreement”
- Satan is aware of self-control issues

2. Being Single a Gift?

1 Corinthians 7:7 *I wish that all of you were as I am. But each of you has your own gift from God; one has this gift, another has that.*

- Paul never married
 - Saw singleness as a gift from God – something outside of himself.
 - Paul’s reasoning...

1 Corinthians 7:32-35 (TPT) *For a single man is focused on the things of the Lord and how he may please him. But a married man is pulled in two directions, for he is concerned about both the things of God and the things of the world in order to please his wife.*

A married woman is concerned about the things of the world and how she may please her husband. I am trying to help you and make things easier for you and not make things difficult, but so that you would have undistracted devotion, serving the Lord constantly with an undivided heart.

3. Separation Anxiety

1 Corinthians 7:10-11 *To the married I give this command (not I, but the LORD): A wife must not separate from her husband. But*

if she does, she must remain unmarried or else be reconciled to her husband. And a husband must not divorce his wife.

(a) *Both Parties Believers*

- God has called us to live in peace (1 Corinthians 7:15)
 - “blessed are the peacemakers”...
 - Paul is referring to a Christian Marriage
- What happens if there is no peace?
 - If two believers separate - stay single
 - OR be reconciled.

(b) *Only one partner a Believer*

1 Corinthians 7:12-13 *To the rest I say this (I, not the LORD): If any brother has a wife who is not a believer and she is willing to live with him, he must not divorce her. ¹³And if a woman has a husband who is not a believer and he is willing to live with her, she must not divorce him.*

- “live with” – in relationship; not just sharing a house
 - TPT (and other translations): “content”

1 Corinthians 7:15 *But if the unbeliever leaves, let it be so. The brother or the sister is not bound in such circumstances; God has called us to live in peace.*

- Unbeliever chooses to leave
 - Believer NOT BOUND or bonded to relationship

(c) *What about their children?*

1 Corinthians 7:14 *For the unbelieving husband has been sanctified through his wife, and the unbelieving wife has been sanctified through her believing husband. Otherwise your children would be unclean, but as it is, they are holy.*

- Key word: “sanctified”

- Set apart for what they've been designed for.
- Context is divorce, not salvation
- Husband and wife to do what they have been designed for
 - To have a stable home
- Families of unbelievers are on their own to face life's challenges
 - Blessing / favour that rests on the believer flows to the unbeliever
 - Children are covered in this blessing (until they reach an age of accountability / leave this covering)

4. Break the Slave Mentality

1 Corinthians 7:23 *since a great price was paid for your redemption, stop having the mind-set of a slave.*

- Slave mentality is narrow thinking
- Price for your freedom has been paid
- Kingdom of God thinking is full of possibilities
 - Personal testimony of bigger thinking
- Paul says to Christian spouse – you may win him / her to Christ
 - 1 Corinthians 7:16
- Slave mentality is caught in world's system
 - World's so-called freedom has a sting in its tail.

1 Corinthians 7:31-32a *We are to live as those who live in the world system but are not absorbed by it, for the world as we know it is quickly passing away. Because of this, we need to live as free from anxiety as possible.*