



1 Corinthians

MESSY CHURCH
MIGHTY CHRIST

6:12 “Everything is permissible for me,” but not everything is beneficial. “Everything is permissible for me,” but I will not be mastered by anything. 13 “Food is for the stomach and the stomach for food,” and God will do away with both of them. However, the body is not for sexual immorality but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. 14 God raised up the Lord and will also raise us up by his power. ...

6:15 Don't you know that your bodies are a part of Christ's body? So should I take a part of Christ's body and make it part of a prostitute? Absolutely not! 16 Don't you know that anyone joined to a prostitute is one body with her? For Scripture says, The two will become one flesh. 17 But anyone joined to the Lord is one spirit with him. ...

6:18 Flee sexual immorality! Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the person who is sexually immoral sins against his own body. 19 Don't you know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, 20 for you were bought at a price. So glorify God with your body. ...

7:1 Now in response to the matters you wrote about: “It is good for a man not to have sexual relations with a woman.” **2** But because sexual immorality is so common, each man should have sexual relations with his own wife, and each woman should have sexual relations with her own husband. **3** A husband should fulfill his marital duty to his wife, and likewise a wife to her husband. ...

4 A wife does not have the right over her own body, but her husband does. In the same way, a husband does not have the right over his own body, but his wife does. 5 Do not deprive one another—except when you agree for a time, to devote yourselves to prayer. Then come together again; otherwise, Satan may tempt you because of your lack of self-control. 6 I say this as a concession, not as a command.

MAIN IDEA

In 1 Corinthians 7:1–6, Paul calls married believers to three God-honoring pursuits so they will resist worldly thinking and live faithfully according to God's purposes for marital intimacy.

PURSUE PURITY WITH YOUR SPOUSE (vv.1-2)

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In chapters 6 and 7 there are two distortions of God's design for sex:

- The body was spiritually irrelevant (1 Cor 6:13).
- Denying sexual desire makes one more spiritual (1 Cor 7:1).

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In a fallen world filled with sexual temptation, marital intimacy is one of God's gracious means of protecting His people.

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Both the husband **and** the wife are addressed with dignity and responsibility in verse 2.

Paul presents marriage as radically mutual.

PURSUE MUTUAL SELF-GIVING WITH YOUR SPOUSE (vv.3-4)

7:3 A husband should fulfill his marital duty to his wife, and likewise a wife to her husband.

Biblical marital intimacy is in part about fulfilling one's covenant duties in love.

A Biblical Marriage Is to Be Marked By:

- Mutual self-giving
- Mutual service
- Mutual commitment

3 Do nothing out of selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility consider others as more important than yourselves. 4 Everyone should look not to his own interests, but rather to the interests of others.

**5 Adopt the same attitude as that of Christ Jesus,
...**

6 who, existing in the form of God,
did not consider equality with God
as something to be exploited.

7 Instead he emptied himself
by assuming the form of a servant,
taking on the likeness of humanity.

And when he had come as a man,

8 he humbled himself by becoming obedient
to the point of death—

even to death on a cross.

—Philippians 2:3-8

A God-honoring marriage moves outward in Christ-shaped service focused on your spouse (Phil 2:3-8).

**18 Let your fountain be blessed,
and take pleasure in the wife of your youth.**

**19 A loving deer, a graceful doe—
let her breasts always satisfy you;
be lost in her love forever.**

— Proverbs 5:18-19

4 A wife does not have the right over her own body, but her husband does. In the same way, a husband does not have the right over his own body, but his wife does.

This is why a man leaves his father and mother and
bonds with his wife, and they become one flesh.

— Genesis 2:24

In the Old Testament, there were often “covenant renewal ceremonies.” ... This was crucial if the people were to sustain a life of faithfulness.... It is the same with the marriage covenant.... Sex is God’s appointed way for two people to reciprocally say to one another, “I belong completely, permanently, and exclusively to you.” You must not use sex to say anything less.... though a marriage covenant is necessary for sex, sex is also necessary for the maintenance of the covenant. It is your covenant renewal service.

— Tim Keller

PURSUE WISE UNITY WITH YOUR SPOUSE (vv.5-6)

5 Do not deprive one another—except when you agree for a time, to devote yourselves to prayer. Then come together again; otherwise, Satan may tempt you because of your lack of self-control.

6 I say this as a concession, not as a command.

Four Qualifications to the Exception in Verse 5:

1. It must be by mutual agreement, “when you agree.”
2. The abstinence is only “for a time.”
3. The purpose is “to devote yourselves to prayer.”
4. The couple is to “then come together again.”

Outdo one another in showing honor.

— Romans 12:10 (ESV)