

SEXUAL OBLIGATIONS

I Corinthians 7:1-9

Introduction

- A. In 1 Cor 7, Paul points out two gifts God has given:
1. Of s_____
 2. Of m_____
- B. Two questions to think about
1. Which gift have you received from God?
 2. What is your sexual obligation in whatever condition you are presently in?

OF THE UNMARRIED (1,6-9)

- A. Paul wrote this part of the letter to answer the question of whether or not it was good for a man not to touch a woman s_____ (NLT and NIV translates the idea which is sexual abstinence) – see verse 1.
1. Some may have thought that it was more spiritual:
 - a. To be s_____ than married.
 - b. To ab_____ from sex than to not do so.
 2. Paul's answer shows that the spiritual action is to put your sexuality under God's a_____.
- B. Paul states that he wished everyone were like him (v. 7).
1. Paul had the gift of being single.
 - a. This does not mean that he had no sex drive.
 - b. This does mean that he had self-c_____ in this area and that he had no desire for a lifetime companion.
 2. Paul conceded that not everyone is like him
 - a. It is better to marry than to b_____ (v. 9)
 - b. Other apostles took their w_____ with them in ministry (1 Cor 9:5).
- C. How should we apply this?
1. This does NOT mean that a person who lacks self-control should r_____ into marriage.
 2. This does NOT mean that it is a sin to be single if you have the gift of marriage, or that it is a sin to be married if you have the gift of being single. The sin is l_____, sexual immorality, or abusing your sexuality.

3. This DOES mean that it is best to remain single if you can c_____ your sexuality AND you can do without a lifetime companion.
4. This DOES mean that if you have trouble controlling your sexuality AND you cannot do without a lifetime companion, then it is best to get married WHEN you find the r_____ person.

OF THE MARRIED (2-5)

- A. What is supposed to happen in a marriage?
 1. Sexual f_____ (vv. 2,3)
 2. A surrender of a_____ over one's own body to their spouse (v. 4), since the two are one flesh.
- B. Common excuses for sexually depriving a mate:
 1. It is spiritually h_____ (this may have been what some in the Corinthian church thought – see verse 5a)
 2. T_____, a head-ache, not in the mood.
- C. One valid reason given for abstinence is m_____ agreement for the purpose of prayer (v. 5b) – situations include:
 1. One spouse experiences a t_____ of some kind – bring it to prayer.
 2. Unresolved t_____ between a husband and wife – bring it to prayer.
 3. A circumstance physically s_____ a husband and wife – bring it to prayer.
 4. The point is that the agreement of abstinence must be only t_____
- D. The greatest sexual fulfillment is from the hard work of making one's spouse f_____ loved and respected (Eph 5:22-23).
 1. Read The Five Love Languages by Gary Chapman – applying this will revolutionize any marriage.
 - a. Quality time
 - b. Gifts
 - c. Acts of service
 - d. Physical touch
 - e. Words of affirmation
 2. Which two actions does your spouse need a lot of in order to “f_____” loved by you? (ask AND do)