

LEADERS

Please be sure to read the SG Newsletter for info about the Passover opportunity and a reminder about the prayer night on March 24th.

LEARN

Read 1 Corinthians 7:1-7 together. What stands out in the text or from the sermon that is helpful, encouraging, or challenging?

What is Paul teaching about singleness and marriage in these verses?

(Celibacy is for singleness; sex is for marriage. Each spouse "belongs" to the other in that they should give themselves to their spouse and not demand from their spouse. Singleness may be a long season or could be God's will with the gift of celibacy.)

What are some examples of the wrong way to understand verse 4? How does understanding it rightly (through the gospel) help avoid any wrong interpretations?

(Wrong to demand and speak of your "rights" over the other person. Wrong to over-emphasize need for spouse to subject themselves to you. Gospel understanding is to voluntarily give from love toward spouse.)

PRACTICE

How does your view of sex within marriage need to change in light of this passage?

(Leaders: This may be an overly sensitive question for mixed company based on your group. It could also function as a good "change" question.)

How can these verses protect a married couple from using sex in an unjust way toward one another?

(Paul speaks to both spouses in marriage equally, as responsible to willingly give self to their spouse and not withhold in order to leverage, punish, or disconnect from them.)

How should this passage help you think differently about the way God "gifts" us, whether with singleness or marriage?

(Acknowledge marriages are hard, and singleness is hard! Not meant to demean a difficult marriage or make light of singles who long to marry. But we need to submit to God's will in our lives and still thank/praise him for what he does give even when we may desire different.)

CHANGE

For the married person: Are you treating your marriage as a gift from God to be stewarded his glory? How may things need to change in how you view your marriage for this to happen?

For the single person: Are you leveraging the fact that you are unmarried to serve God or to live selfishly? How might the men/women in your group help lovingly keep you accountable to serve God and not self?

(Leaders: Especially in a mixed setting of singles and married together, seek to encourage reflection on each person's heart toward their current status. End with prayers of thanksgiving and petitions for the Lord's help in areas that are sensitive and hard to trust him with.)