

Summit Woods Baptist Church  
First Corinthians Sermon Study Equipping Class

1 Corinthians 7:1-5

❖ Day 1

Read 1 Corinthians 7:1-5.

For these lessons, the sermon text is provided in a format that visually helps display the structure of the paragraph or section of text. The verbs are underlined. The main clauses remain to the left, and the supporting clauses are either directly underneath when they have equal priority to what comes before, or are tabbed to the right when the clause supports, develops or explains previous clauses.

<sup>1</sup> Now concerning the matters about which you wrote:  
“It is good for a man not to have sexual relations with a woman.”

<sup>2</sup> But because of the temptation to sexual immorality,  
each man should have his own wife  
and each woman her own husband.

<sup>3</sup> The husband should give to his wife her conjugal rights,  
and likewise the wife to her husband.

<sup>4</sup> For the wife does not have authority over her own body,  
but the husband does.  
Likewise the husband does not have authority over his own body,  
but the wife does.

<sup>5</sup> Do not deprive one another,  
except perhaps by agreement for a limited time,  
that you may devote yourselves to prayer;  
but then come together again,  
so that Satan may not tempt you  
because of your lack of self-control.

1. “Now concerning” indicates the beginning of a new section. Is Paul addressing an entirely new topic? Explain.

a. What in verse 1 sets this section apart from Paul’s preceding words on sexual immorality?

2. Why does Paul say each person should have a spouse?

a. Highlight or circle each reference to this reason in the text.

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3. Is this the only purpose that marriage serves? Explain.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. Have you ever thought about staving off sexual temptation as a legitimate purpose that marriage serves? Explain.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. In verse 3, what right does a spouse have within the marriage?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
6. In verse 4, what is the basis for that right?
  - a. Who ultimately has authority over both the husband and the wife?

❖ Day 2

Read 1 Corinthians 7:1-5 again.

7. Why are the verbs “should have”, “should give”, and “deprive” double-underlined? What kind of verb are they?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
8. List four ways that the man and woman are treated as equals in this paragraph.

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9. Notice that the first imperative (verse 2) commands marriage. Is this a blanket command for everyone? Is remaining single a sin? Justify your answer from the surrounding text.
10. The second and third imperatives regulate life inside of marriage. What is the affirmative command inside of marriage?
11. Note the “give” and not “take” language in verse 3. How should this affect one’s attitude toward sex within the marriage relationship?
12. What is the negative command inside of marriage?
13. What problem does Paul say that sexual deprivation may result in?

❖ Day 3

Read 1 Corinthians 7:1-5 again.

14. In verse 5, what circumstance does Paul give as a potential reason to intentionally forego sexual intimacy for a time?
  - a. Do you think this is a requirement for all married couples to periodically abstain from sex? Explain.

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15. For what wrong reasons might someone deprive his/her spouse's conjugal rights?

a. What do you think Paul would say to them?

16. How might Paul's guidance concerning a fast from sexual intercourse relate in principle to fasting from other things?

17. How should this passage influence the way we think about marriage and sex?

18. How does Philippians 2:3-4 relate?

19. How does this week's passage help you think about how to counsel couples who are struggling in their sexual relationship?

In preparation for Sunday, pray that each person in our congregation, whether married or single, would honor, uphold, and celebrate God's patterns for marriage and actively avoid the temptations to sexual immorality through obedience to God's ways.