

Summit Woods Baptist Church  
First Corinthians Sermon Study Equipping Class

1 Corinthians 7:6-11

Remember to begin your study early in the week so that you have time to really think (and keep thinking) about the passage without being rushed.

❖ Day 1

Read 1 Corinthians 7:6-11.

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. Suggested themes in the text are provided in the box on the left.

I. The Concession (not the command)

\*note: the word translated 'concession' could also be translated 'permission'.

II. The Command (not the concession)

<sup>6</sup>Now as a concession, not a command, I say this.

<sup>7</sup>I wish

that all were as I myself am.

But each has his own gift from God,

one of one kind

and one of another.

<sup>8</sup>To the unmarried and the widows I say  
that it is good for them to remain single, as I am.

<sup>9</sup>But if they cannot exercise self-control,  
they should marry.

For it is better to marry than to burn with passion.

<sup>10</sup>To the married I give this charge (not I, but the Lord):  
the wife should not separate from her husband

<sup>11</sup>(but if she does,  
she should remain unmarried  
or else be reconciled to her husband),  
and the husband should not divorce his wife.

1. Who is the "I" in verse 6?

2. What does Paul mean by the phrase "as I myself am"? From where in the passage do you get your answer?

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3. What preference does Paul state in verse 7?
4. Who is included in the “all” in verse 7?
5. What does Paul recommend to those who are unmarried or widowed in verse 8?
6. What does he say they are permitted to do in verse 9?
7. Why does he say this might be the better course for some?
8. How does Paul’s instruction in 1 Timothy 5:11-14 that younger widows should marry fit in with this week’s passage?

❖ Day 2

Read 1 Corinthians 7:6-11 again.

9. What is Paul specifically referring to in this passage when he says “each has his own gift from God, one of one kind and one of another”? What are the gifts?

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- a. Though Paul states that he prefers singleness, how does verse 7 demonstrate that he values marriage?

10. Who determines who receives which gift?

11. To whom does Paul give a command in verse 10?

12. Are both partners addressed here Christians? Explain your answer. (Briefly look ahead to verses 12-16.)

13. What is Paul's command to those who are married?

14. Where does Paul say this command originated?

15. Read Matthew 19:1-12. How do Paul's words match Jesus' words, both in the command and in the concession?

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❖ Day 3

Read 1 Corinthians 7:6-11 again.

16. In verse 11, if a woman does separate from her husband, what does Paul command her to do?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
17. How should Paul's command to the woman in verse 11 encourage one who is considering leaving to change her mind?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
18. The strongest imperative language Paul uses in these verses in the Greek is in his command to the woman who has separated from her husband in verse 11. Why might Paul have pointed his sharpest/strongest words there?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
19. Write a summary of the concession under "I. The Concession" in the box by the block diagram.
20. Write a summary of the command under "II. The Command" in the box by the block diagram.
21. What impact does this week's passage have on your attitude toward singleness and marriage? (Note: We will ask this question again in the weeks to come. For this week, focus on what is specifically said in this passage.)

In preparation for Sunday, pray that we would value both singleness and marriage as gifts from God. Pray that those who are considering separating from their spouses or have separated would obey the Lord's commands.