Healthy God Honoring Marriages

(1 Corinthians 7)

***Paul Explained to Three Groups of Believers, God’s Will Concerning Marriage that Honored Him.***

* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ married to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (7:1-11)
* One purpose for marriage is to avoid \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. (vs. 7:2)
  + The wife’s body belongs to the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and the husband’s body to the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
  + Both Husband and wife must be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of the other.
  + Sexual love is a beautiful **tool** to build with, not a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to fight with.
* The couple can abstain in order to dedicate their full \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to prayer and fasting. (vs. 7:5)
  + They must not use this as an excuse for prolonged \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
  + Believers should be concerned with their spouses needs both \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* He tells them celibacy is permitted, but it is not \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. (vs. 7:6)
* Also not everyone has the “gift” of remaining \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. (7:7 (Matthew 19:10-12, Gen. 2:18)
* The church also asked Paul about divorce…
  + Husbands and wives are \_\_\_\_\_\_ to divorce each other. (Matthew 19:1-11)
  + He also states that if divorce does occur, the parties should remain \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ or seek reconciliation.
* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ married to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (7:12-16)
* Some of the Corinthian church people were saved \_\_\_\_\_\_ they had been married.
  + Their spouses had not yet given themselves to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
  + Believers are to remain with their unsaved spouse so long as their spouse is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to live with them.
* What about the children? Salvation does not change the marriage state.
  + If a spouses decision to follow Christ annulled the marriage, then the children in the home would become \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
  + Again, the responsibility is placed on the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ partner to do what is right.
  + The believing husband or wife must not \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* If a person becomes a believer after marriage, they should not use that as an \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to break up the marriage. (2 Cor. 6:14)
  + The Christian spouse can have a spiritual \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ on the unsaved loved ones. (Corinthians 7:14)
    - However this passage does not teach that the unsaved spouse is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ because of the believing party.
    - Each person must \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for themselves to follow Christ.
    - The believer exerts a spiritual influence in the home that can lead to the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of the lost family member.
* New equality brought misunderstandings and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ within the church. (vs. 17-24)
* Even though Christians are all one in Christ, each believer should remain in the same calling they were in when God saved him.

*What if the unsaved spouse leaves the home?*

* + The Believer is not \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to keep the home together. (vs. 7:15)
  + We should do all we can to live in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_; but sometimes peace is impossible. (Rom. 12:18)
  + If the unsaved person leaves, there is little the believer can do except to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and continue to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Jesus.

* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Believers (7:25-40)
* He told them to consider the present \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. (vs. 25-31)
* It was a time of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ when society was going through change. (vs. 7:26 & 7:31)
* There was not much time left for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the Lord. (1 Cor. 7:29)
* However, this did not mean that married people should seek a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. (vs. 7:27)

*Paul’s counsel was to the unmarried.*

* He also told them to face the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ with eyes wide open. (vs. 32-35)
* Paul emphasized \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for the Lord.
* He did not suggest that it was \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for a man or a woman to be married and serve God acceptably.
* It is possible to please both God and your spouse, if you are \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to Christ and obeying God’s Word.
* Paul addressed here the fathers of the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ girls. (vs. 36-38)
* It was common in their time that the parents \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the marriages. (2 Cor. 11:2)
* He made it clear that the father had freedom of choice whether or not he would give his daughter in marriage.

*What about today?* *It is a wise thing for couples to seek counsel with their parents and with leaders in the church.*

* + Often when those protections are \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ we find ourselves rushing into something which we may regret later.
* Remember that marriage is for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, so seek a God loving spouse. (vs. 39-40)
* It is an act of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for a believer to knowingly marry an unsaved person. (1 Cor. 7:39)
* It is God’s will that the marriage union be a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ commitment.

***So What Now?***

* If you are in any of these situations you should ask the following questions:
* Am I marrying a believer?
* Am I married to an unbeliever?
* How can/ should I honor God in my relationship?
* How will/ does marriage affect my service for Christ?
* We should all commit to have healthy God honoring relationships that bring people to see Jesus in our homes.