

Sermon Scripture Passage: 1 Corinthians 6:18-20, 7:1-16

18 Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body. 19 Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, 20 for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.

7:1-16 - Now concerning the matters about which you wrote: "It is good for a man not to have sexual relations with a woman." 2 But because of the temptation to sexual immorality, each man should have his own wife and each woman her own husband. 3 The husband should give to his wife her conjugal rights, and likewise the wife to her husband. 4 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. 5 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.

6 Now as a concession, not a command, I say this. 7 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.

8 To the unmarried and the widows I say that it is good for them to remain single, as I am. 9 But if they cannot exercise self-control, they should marry. For it is better to marry than to burn with passion. 10 To the married I give this charge (not I, but the Lord): the wife should not separate from her husband 11 (but if she does, she should remain unmarried or else be reconciled to her husband), and the husband should not divorce his wife.

12 To the rest I say (I, not the Lord) that if any brother has a wife who is an unbeliever, and she consents to live with him, he should not divorce her. 13 If any woman has a husband who is an unbeliever, and he consents to live with her, she should not divorce him. 14 For the unbelieving husband is made holy because of his wife, and the unbelieving wife is made holy because of her husband. Otherwise your children would be unclean, but as it is, they are holy. 15 But if the unbelieving partner separates, let it be so. In such cases the brother or sister is not enslaved. God has called you to peace. 16 For how do you know, wife, whether you will save your husband? Or how do you know, husband, whether you will save your wife?

Scripture References:

1 Corinthians 6:9-11 – Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, 10 nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. 11 And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

Galatians 2:20 – I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Question: **How have attitudes about dating/sex/marriage changed since you were a kid?**

How is the Christian sexual ethic different from the ethic promoted in our culture?

1 Corinthians 6:18-20 What three reasons does it give to _____ sexual immorality?

One – Sexual immorality is a sin against your own _____.

Two – Your body is a _____ because the Holy Spirit lives within you .

Three – Your body is not your own, it was _____ at a price.

1 Corinthians 7 Paul answers marriage questions: “Concerning the _____ you wrote.”

7:1-2 Singleness is a good option for a Christian believer but given the _____ of sexual immorality it might not be right for most.

7:3-5 Paul answers their question: Yes, married couples should be _____

7:6-9 Paul advises that singleness for the sake of the _____ is an even better way.

7:10-11 If a marriage is _____ both partners should work toward reconciliation.

7:12-16 *What if you are married to an unbeliever?* Three thoughts:

A follower of Christ should seek a spouse who is also _____ to Christ.

Do not walk away from the marriage, if your spouse will _____ with you.

If your unbelieving spouse walks away from marriage, you are not _____

The Christian sexual ethic is at odds with the current cultural rules regarding sex/marriage.

What are three possible responses people might have to that reality?

The only way we as sinful people can live a holy life is _____

Answers for the blanks:

- Flee
- Body
- Temple
- Bought
- Matters
- Temptation
- Having sex
- Kingdom
- Struggling
- Committed
- Stick
- Bound / enslaved
- The Holy Spirit within us

What are three possible responses people might have to that reality?

I can imagine 3 responses:

One – Rejection of the Christian sexual ethic outlined here

- Do you really think you know better than God on how to live this part of your life?

Two – I want to follow this, but I don't know if I'm able – I don't know how

- Trust in Him. He will go with you. He will lead you, and give you the strength –

Three – You have a Desire for holiness – to live a holy life that will glorify God

- Maybe you have fallen short in past – know not lived in holiness
- God sends His Spirit into our hearts to bring holiness.