

A Better Way: Marriage Matters

1 Corinthians 7:1-16

Life Group Questions – May 6, 2018



Connect

Whether you are married or not, who is a married couple you respect? What is it about their marriage that inspires you?

Study

1. Read **1 Corinthians 7:1-2**. What question are the Corinthians asking Paul? How is this the opposite extreme of 6:12-20? How can license and asceticism *both* lead to unhealthy relationships? Where do you lean?
2. What is God's design for marriage (cf. Genesis 2:24)? What is the greatest enemy to achieving that? Do you agree? Explain the "cycle of selfishness" in your own words. Do you ever see this at work in your own life (even in other relationships)?
3. Read **1 Corinthians 7:3-6**. Using sex as the subject but applying to much more, what is the 1st key to pursuing oneness in marriage? How is the idea of selflessly serving someone received in today's world? If you are married, why is it so hard to selflessly serve your spouse?
4. Read **1 Corinthians 13:4-7**. How does Paul define love? What does it practically look like to love your spouse this way? What does it *not* look like?
5. Read **1 Corinthians 7:10-16**. What is the 2nd key to pursuing oneness in marriage? What does Paul say about divorce between two Christians (**vv. 10-12**)? What *doesn't* he say? What does grace and truth look like when talking about divorce?
6. What does Paul say to a person married to a non-Christian who wants to stay married (**vv. 13-14**)? What encouragement does he give the believing spouse? How could you encourage someone in this situation? What does Paul say to a person married to a non-Christian who wants to separate (**v. 15**)?
7. Why does "marriage matter" in light of Christ and His Church? How does Jesus model both of these things to us? What needs to happen for your marriage or other relationships to begin to model the way Christ loves His bride? Share with the group and allow them to *gently* hold you accountable.

Pray

Pray for the marriages and other relationships in our church: that we would be people who model Christ's love to one another and to this world by selflessly serving and committing to one another.