

Pastor Joseph Zwanziger
1 CORINTHIANS
Part 7: Love and Marriage

USING THIS SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

We have provided all the Scriptures referenced in the sermon and some discussion questions for you to use to facilitate a discussion.

This Sermon Discussion Guide is only a tool to aid you in meeting the needs of your group. For most groups, there are too many questions to answer in one session together.

While the questions are important, remember your small group's goal is not to pound through the questions but to create an atmosphere that will foster true friendships, so knock yourself out with the discussion questions but spend more time laughing than answering the questions.

If you are not married, you should not be engaging in any kinds of sexual relations. If you are married, live a life of fulfillment and togetherness. Consider your responsibilities to each other.

[1 Corinthians 7.1]

"Now regarding the questions you asked in your letter. Yes, it is good to abstain from sexual relations."

[1 Corinthians 7.32-36]

I want you to be free from the concerns of this life. An unmarried man can spend his time doing the Lord's work and thinking how to please him. But a married man has to think about his earthly responsibilities and how to please his wife. His interests are divided. In the same way, a woman who is no longer married or has never been married

*can be devoted to The Lord and holy in body and in spirit. But a married woman has to think about her earthly responsibilities and how to please her husband. I am saying this for your benefit, not to place restrictions on you. **I want you to do whatever will help you serve The Lord best, with as few distractions as possible.***

Do whatever you can do to serve God best with as few distractions as possible.

[Isaiah 26.3]

"You will keep the peace, a perfect peace, for all who trust in You, for those who dedicate their hearts and minds to You."

When you seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, all these other things will be added to you.

[1 Corinthians 7.2, 8-9]

*But because there is so much sexual immorality, **each man should have his own wife, and each woman should have her own husband.** So I say to those who aren't married and to widows--it's better to stay unmarried, just as I am. But if they can't control themselves, they should go ahead and marry. **It's better to marry than to burn with lust.***

[1 Corinthians 7.3-4]

The husband should fulfill his wife's sexual needs, and the wife should fulfill her husband's needs. *The wife gives authority over her body to her husband, and the husband gives authority over his body to his wife.*

[Ephesians 5.28]

*"In the same way, **husbands ought to love their wives as they love their own bodies.** For a man who loves his wife actually shows love for himself."*

[Colossians 3.18-19]

Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting for those who belong to The Lord. Husbands, love your wives and never treat them harshly.

[1 Corinthians 7.5]

Do not deprive each other of sexual relations.

[1 Corinthians 7.17-19]

Each of you should continue to live in whatever situation the Lord has placed you, and remain as you were when God first called you. This is my rule for all the churches. For instance, a man who was circumcised before he became a believer should not try to reverse it. And the man who was uncircumcised when he became a believer should not be circumcised now. For it makes no difference whether or not a man has been circumcised. The important thing is to keep God's commandments.

[Matthew 6.33, MSG]

Steep your life in God-reality, God-initiative, God-provisions. Don't worry about missing out. You'll find all your everyday human concerns will be met.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1. What are some cultural characteristics in our nation today that reflect the sexual climate of Corinth?**
- 2. Who are some people in your life that help bring clarity and wisdom to biblical living?**
- 3. What are some distractions to serving God that you face? How can you minimize them?**

- 4. How does selflessness (versus selfishness) in marriage influence the sense of fulfillment? Consider what Colossians 3.18-19 encourages each spouse to live.**
- 5. What are some choices or habits that can help you to keep God's commandments and steep your life in God-reality?**
- 6. Check out tfh.org/marriage for resources.**