

## **1 Corinthians Study Guide – Sermon from Sunday, October 4th, 2020**

In this passage of Scripture Paul answers a question posed to him by the Corinthian Church about marital sex. In their highly sexualized culture the church was confused and wondered, is it better for us to remain abstinent even in marriage? Paul goes on to explain they should not withhold sex from one another and to do so is to open the door to the sexual temptation happening that Paul addressed in chapters 5 and 6.

### **OPENING**

What sexual temptations and lies of Satan are young people facing in our current culture concerning sex and intimacy?

### **READ 1 CORINTHIANS 7:1-7**

### **WATCH VIDEO**

### **STUDY QUESTIONS**

1. Why do you think the Corinthians asked Paul if they should remain abstinent even in marriage?
2. Why is it hard to fully give yourself to another person like the lover did with her beloved in Song of Solomon 4:16b and why would this be even more difficult and even dangerous without the safety of the marriage covenant?
3. Andrea talked about intimacy being built on the foundation of trust. Read Ephesians 5:22-33 together. How do these instructions given in these verses help a couple grow in intimacy?
4. Why is it difficult for a husband to love his wife like Christ loved the Church? Also, why is it so difficult for a wife to respect her husband and not treat him like a child?

## **APPLY**

1. Biblical marital sex is a sensitive topic, but it must be talked about with candor and grace. When pursued under God's design marital sex is a beautiful act of worship and an earthly example of the oneness Christ has with his Church. This is something the Church must teach about more openly and honestly to the younger generations. Do you agree with this? Why or why not? Is there a danger in not talking about its beauty but only its avoidance before marriage?
2. *For personal reflection.* What needs to change in you for your marriage to reflect more of Christ in your sex life? An honest conversation with your spouse? Repentance from your selfishness? Seeking outside help?

## **PRAYER POINTS**

*Pray this prayer below with your group – either you as the leader, someone you assign, or your entire group in unison. This can be the beginning of your group prayer request time as well.*

Father, we thank You that You are the Creator of all things, even sex. Because you created it, we believe Your design is the most life-giving there is and reflects Christ to the world. Father, the message of the Gospel gives us hope for transformation. Change us from selfish people, to selfless people who give ourselves fully to You, but also to our spouses in obedience to Your Word. Lord, heal what is broken, redeem the hurt, and restore what is lost for Your Kingdom and glory, we pray. In Jesus' Name, amen.