

**HOLY MANY IN UNHOLY SOCIETY:  
A study in I and II Corinthians  
AMEN Bible Study 2013-2014**

**Sacred Marriage  
I Corinthians 7:1-24  
October 31, 2013**

**7:1-9 I. Love your spouse sexually.**

:1-3

**A. Be faithful.**

*“Now concerning the matters about which you wrote: ‘It is good for a man not to have sexual relations with a woman.’ But because of the temptation to sexual immorality, each man should have his own wife and each woman her own husband. The husband should give to his wife her conjugal rights, and likewise the wife to her husband.”*

cf. Exodus 21:10

:4-5

**B. Be a servant.**

*“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.”*

cf. Ephesians 5:25-33; Colossians 3:19; I Peter 3:7

A few words on female sexuality: \*t.w.r.m. \*i.t.e.s. \*g.t.n.g. \*s.d. \*a.f.a.

:5

**C. Be active.**

*“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.”*

:6-9

**D. Be free.**

*“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.”*

cf. Matthew 19:12; I Corinthians 7:28

**:10-11 II. Do not separate from or divorce your believing spouse.**

:10, 11b

**A. Heed the charge.**

*“To the married I give this charge (not I, but the Lord): the wife should not separate from her husband...and the husband should not divorce his wife.”*

cf. Genesis 2:24; Malachi 2:13-16; Matthew 5:32; 19:9; Mark 10:11, 12; Luke 16:18

WCF, XXIV, vi: 6. Although the corruption of man be such as is apt to study arguments unduly to put asunder those whom God hath joined together in marriage: yet, nothing but adultery, or such willful desertion as can no way be remedied by the church, or civil magistrate, is cause sufficient of dissolving the bond of marriage: wherein, a public and orderly course of proceeding is to be observed; and the persons concerned in it not left to their own wills, and discretion, in their own case.

:11a

**B. Remember the back up plan.**

*“... (but if she does, she should remain unmarried or else be reconciled to her husband)...”*

from Second Presbyterian's published paper on *Marriage, Divorce, and Remarriage*:

In God's infinite kindness, He continues to guide us as our Good Shepherd, even when we have failed to carry out His original design for marriage. In the case of a biblically warranted divorce, we believe the Scriptures teach that one is free to remarry in the Lord, since there are no lingering obligations to remain unmarried.

When separation or divorce occurs without biblical grounds, the individuals involved must remain single or be reconciled to their spouse. Jesus teaches that those who are involved in an improper remarriage commit adultery.

If a former spouse has remarried or unilaterally refuses reconciliation in such a way as to reveal himself or herself to be, in effect, a deserting unbeliever, remarriage to another person becomes a valid option for the offended party. The former marriage relationship and all lingering obligations to remain single have been permanently broken.

Following a divorce and before entering into a romantic relationship with another person, there should always be a very careful process of exploring the past through pastoral counseling and personal reflection to establish one's eligibility for remarriage according to Scripture and to discover helpful lessons for the future. We also encourage all believers to remember the Apostle Paul's special words of encouragement for the single life, a lifestyle badly undervalued in our own day. In all circumstances, we encourage one to seek prayerfully God's will and godly counsel within the Church.

What about those cases in which people have been involved in an unbiblical divorce before becoming believers and have since remarried? We encourage such individuals to seek God's gracious forgiveness with the assurance that He will forgive them and accept their present marriage.

Does this mean that in this case God has changed or lowered His standards? Not at all. It does mean, however, that divorce and remarriage, even under sinful circumstances, serious though they be, are not unforgivable sins and, as with all other transgressions, are covered by the blood of Christ.

### **:12-24 III. Do not initiate or forbid divorce with your unbelieving spouse.**

#### **:12-14 A. You might sanctify your family.**

*"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. If any woman has a husband who is an unbeliever, and he consents to live with her, she should not divorce him. 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.*

#### **:15-16 B. You might not sanctify your family.**

*"But if the unbelieving partner separate, let it be so. In such cases the brother or sister is not enslaved. God has called you to peace. For how do you know, wife, whether you will save your husband? Or how do you know, husband, whether you will save your wife?"*

#### **:17-24 C. You must sanctify yourself.**

##### **:17-21a 1. You are bound to obey God cheerfully in the place He assigns.**

*Only let each person lead the life that the Lord has assigned to him, and to which God has called him. This is my rule in all the churches. Was anyone at the time of his call already circumcised? Let him not seek to remove the marks of circumcision. Was anyone at the time of his call uncircumcised? Let him not seek circumcision. For neither circumcision counts for anything nor uncircumcision, but keeping the commandments of God. Each one should remain in the condition in which he was called. Were you a bondservant when called? Do not be concerned about it."*

cf. II Corinthians 12:7-10; Philippians 4:10-20

##### **:21b 2. You are free to improve your conditions.**

*"(But if you can gain your freedom, avail yourself of the opportunity.)"*

##### **:22-24 3. You belong to Christ alone.**

*"For he who was called in the Lord as a bondservant is a freedman of the Lord. Likewise he who was free when called is a bondservant of Christ. You were bought with a price; do not become bondservants of men. So, brothers, in whatever condition each was called, there let him remain with God."*