

Sex in Marriage

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: I Corinthians 7:1-9.

B. The Corinthians questioned whether a life of celibacy was best in view of sexual temptation.

II. Paul said that it was good not to touch a woman.

A. God made men and women to be together so monasticism was a disaster.

B. Paul did not view marriage as second rate.

a. It is likely that Paul was married at one time—it was required of those who were part of the Sanhedrin.

b. There is no way of knowing what happened to his wife.

c. Paul gloried in being single.

d. Paul is really dealing with sex inside of marriage here—Paul has a high view of marriage as well. (Ephesians 5)

III. Sex within marriage.

A. Sex within marriage gives relief to sexual pressures.

a. One should not get married to be free from sex drives.

b. It helps to be married when living in a sex-oriented society.

c. A function of sex is to provide mutual pleasure to one another. (Hebrews 13)

B. Sex is designed to fulfill a need within one's partner.

a. Paul does not say to demand sexual rights—this is destructive to marital happiness.

b. Sex in marriage is something that is to be freely offered to one another.

c. The only way to get one's needs met is to meet another's.

d. If this is refused, it must be for a mutual spiritual retreat.

C. Sex within marriage is a manifest gift of God just as singleness is.

a. If one's spouse dies, it is best to remain single especially if one is older.

b. However, one can marry again because the sexual desire has been awakened.

Application questions:

1. How would you respond to someone who says that sex is sinful in all of its forms?

2. Why is it wrong to demand one's sexual rights?

3. How does Satan attack the marriage bed, and how is sex a solution to this? Explain.
