

Studies In First Corinthians

(I Corinthians 7:1-11)

1. Since it is not good for a man to touch a woman, what is to be done to avoid fornication?

Get Scripturally married: *“(1) Now concerning the things whereof ye wrote unto me: It is good for a man not to touch a woman. (2) Nevertheless, to avoid fornication, let every man have his own wife, and let every woman have her own husband. (3) Let the husband render unto the wife due benevolence: and likewise also the wife unto the husband” (I Corinthians 7:1-3).*

- Brethren from Corinth had written Paul (**I Corinthians 1:11** and **I Corinthians 11:18**).
- Fornication is obviously a problem amongst the “saints” in Corinth (**I Corinthians 5:1**).
- The term translated “benevolence” in verse 3 is Strong’s # 2133, which “euphemistically” means: “conjugal duty” (Strong’s).
- Marriage is the proper relationship for sexual relations between a man and a woman (**Proverbs 5:18-19** and **Hebrews 13:4**).

2. When you are married, whom do you surrender your body to?

Your mate: *“The wife hath not power of her own body, but the husband: and likewise also the husband hath not power of his own body, but the wife” (I Corinthians 7:4).*

- Married people use their bodies to please their mates (**I Corinthians 7:33-34**).

3. Would it please God if a husband or a wife just decided to stop having sexual relations with his or her spouse?

No, such cessation has to be with mutual consent and for good reason to avoid temptation: *“Defraud ye not one the other, except it be with consent for a time, that ye may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again, that Satan tempt you not for your incontinency” (I Corinthians 7:5).*

- The term “incontinency” means: “lack of self-restraint” (Strong’s).
- Mutual consent during fasting and prayer allows for sex to be withheld. You could not be focused on prayer and fasting while having carnal, sexual thoughts anyway (**Galatians 5:16-17**).
- Fasting is something we should engage in (**Matthew 6:16-18**, **Matthew 9:14-15**, and **Acts 14:23**). Fasting and time in prayer are tied together (**Ezra 8:21-23**, **Psalms 35:13**, and **Luke 2:37**). Fasting means not eating (**Matthew 15:32**).
- When a spouse withholds sexual satisfaction that spouse is putting his or her mate in danger of temptation. This is wrong (**Romans 14:13**; cf. **Matthew 26:41** and **I Peter 2:11**).

4. Why would we pay any attention to something Paul wrote if he said it is not a command of the Lord?

The verse that will bring about this discussion is here: *“But I speak this by permission, and not of commandment”* (I Corinthians 7:6).

- We’ll also cover this subject again when we discuss verses **12** and **25-26**.
- Even when an inspired man gave his “opinion”, is his the same as ours? Of course not, for these men are still led by the spirit in all they say (I Corinthians 7:40)? Moreover, congregations had men there who could verify if the things being written were of God or not (I Corinthians 14:37).
- Paul had authority to speak (II Corinthians 10:8). To reject these things is to reject the Lord (I Thessalonians 4:8).
- Added to all of that, Paul could help them understand truths (Nehemiah 8:8)?
- As we proceed, let’s test what Paul writes with other Scriptures (I Thessalonians 5:21).

5. In Paul’s estimation, was it better to be married or unmarried?

“(7) For I would that all men were even as I myself. But every man hath his proper gift of God, one after this manner, and another after that. (8) I say therefore to the unmarried and widows, It is good for them if they abide even as I” (I Corinthians 7:7-8).

- Marriage is not wrong (Proverbs 18:22, Proverbs 19:14, Ecclesiastes 9:9).
- It was because of persecution that Paul gave this guided advice (SEE: I Corinthians 7:25-29)?
- Jesus also indicated that marriage is not for everyone (Matthew 19:3-12).

6. What did Paul say about those who could not contain themselves?

Better to marry: *“But if they cannot contain, let them marry: for it is better to marry than to burn”* (I Corinthians 7:9).

- I Timothy 5:11; cf. I Corinthians 7:1-3.

7. Is our Lord pleased when there is a separation in a marriage?

No: *“And unto the married I command, yet not I, but the Lord, Let not the wife depart from her husband”* (I Corinthians 7:10).

- Jeremiah 3:20, Mark 10:11-12, and Romans 7:1-3.

8. If there is a separation in a marriage, what are the permitted options?

Remain unmarried or reconcile: *“But and if she depart, let her remain unmarried, or be reconciled to her husband: and let not the husband put away his wife”* (I Corinthians 7:11).

- Malachi 2:14-16.