

1 Corinthians Message Series

Discussion Guide based on the morning message on October 31, 2010

Marriage Matters: 1 Corinthians 7:1-16, 25-40

Big Idea: Be wise in decisions regarding marriage no matter your current state.

Sermon Notes

- I) Advice for Christian Marriages (1-11).**
- II) Advice for Christians married to non-Christians (12-16).**
- III) Advice for Single Christians (25-40).**

ICE BREAKER DISCUSSION

- Verses 25 and 40 – What is the proper outlook on the inspiration of this passage? (Jesus never spoke directly to those issues but Paul is speaking on His behalf.)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Verses 1-11
 - a. What should the church learn and apply about singleness in our membership? (sensitivity and celebration of singleness.)
 - b. How is singleness sometimes overlooked or seen as negative in our church overtly or covertly?
 - c. How can our Sunday School Group support singles inside and outside our group?
 - d. What is the Biblical definition of marriage in this passage? (monogamous relationship with 1 man and 1 woman)
 - e. What is Paul's instruction about sex inside of marriage? (do not deny each other except for prayer)
 - f. What does this instruction imply about the place of sex in marriage? (it's important!)
 - g. What else should be a part of the marital relationship? (unity and reconciliation)
 - h. How can couples reconcile to each other? (1. Commitment to it 2. Help when necessary)
 - i. What is Paul's teaching on divorce? (there are grounds for it but the goal should be to exhaust reconciliation)
- Verses 12-16
 - a. What is the meaning? This can be a troubling passage without study. (1. Believers should marry believers 2. Believers are the chance for non-believers to be saved)
NOTE (Teaching Point): Bible passages should be interpreted in light of the context and other Scripture. Notice what would happen if you took verse 4a alone without the next verse's context. What is the testimony of Scripture to salvation? We must take John 14:6 in consideration with the passage. It is obvious that we cannot be saved through another person's salvation so we must look deeper for the meaning in light of other Scripture about salvation.
- Verses 25-40
 - What is the meaning?
 - Be happy in the state you're in
 - Make Matthew 6:33 your goal