

I Corinthians 7:1-7 **A Healthy Marriage**

Introduction:

My wife and I along with hundreds of others attended a fund raising banquet in support of the Pregnancy Care Center. Their mission is to encourage those who have become pregnant outside the bonds of marriage to keep their babies rather than abort them. Nearly 800 women in Oswego County came to the PCC in Oswego this past year to receive counsel and encouragement to keep their babes in the womb. Many are without jobs, poor, abandoned by families and their boyfriends. Even some doctors encourage these pregnant women to abort their “fetus” because they say, “you are young and have your whole life ahead of you. 64% of women having abortions are Christians! Our loose living, as it was in the days of Corinth has caught up with us. There’s nothing new under the sun. Paul is writing this letter to some in the church who have been guilty of committing fornication and Christians who were married neglecting their marital obligations.

I. Preventive Medicine – v.1-2

A. Context: The popularity of the sin of fornication

B. Paul’s formula: (v,25, 8:1; 12:1; 16:1; 12)

1. His warning – V.1 cf. (Abraham’s lied about his wife to King Abimelech) Gen.20:1-18; Prov. 6:29
2. His command – “Let each man have his own wife”

C. The Marriage bed – is honorable – Heb. 13:4; I Tim. 4:3(Eph. 5:21-33)

II. Duties of Married Couples –v.3-7

A. Fulfill your duties – (boy scout oath and law)

1. Duties of each married partner
2. Paul disagrees with the present culture – Imperative mood

B. Authority in the marriage bond:

1. Paul speaks against selfishness within the sexual union
2. Paul indicates that sex is God’s creative gift to man – (Prov. 5:19; Song of Sol.4:5; 7:3; 7;7; 8:1,10; Luke 11:27)

C. Mutual Consent – v.5,6

1. Agreement to abstain for a time
2. Stop depriving (robbing) one another

D. Paul’s Celibacy – v.7

1. Paul not married at the time
2. Paul at one time was married – (member of the Sanhedrin Acts 26;10)
3. Paul was later gifted with celibacy
4. Paul’s pastoral instruction – I Tim.3:1-7

Conclusion:

1. *Paul’s purpose in this section is to keep men and women from sexual sin.*
2. *Paul demonstrates preventive medicine from falling into temptation and sin is for men and women to get married.*
3. *Paul’s places a lot of stress on a healthy marriage which is composed of sharing the blessing of the sexual union. Depriving one another of such a blessing is contrary to God’s will.*

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