




# Connect

How would the world change if marriage was no longer practiced by governments? Is marriage just a contract?

# Verses - 1 Corinthians 7:1-16 (CSB)

**Read aloud:**

1 Now in response to the matters you wrote about: “It is good for a man not to have
sexual relations with a woman.” 2 But because sexual immorality is so common, each
man should have sexual relations with his own wife, and each woman should have
sexual relations with her own husband. 3 A husband should fulfill his marital duty to
his wife, and likewise a wife to her husband. 4 A wife does not have the right over her
own body, but her husband does. In the same way, a husband does not have the right
over his own body, but his wife does. 5 Do not deprive one another — except when
you agree for a time, to devote yourselves to prayer. Then come together again;
otherwise, Satan may tempt you because of your lack of self-control. 6 I say this as a
concession, not as a command. 7 I wish that all people were as I am. But each has his
own gift from God, one person has this gift, another has that. 8 I say to the unmarried
and to widows: It is good for them if they remain as I am. 9 But if they do not have
self-control, they should marry, since it is better to marry than to burn with desire. 10
To the married I give this command — not I, but the Lord — a wife is not to leave her
husband. 11 But if she does leave, she must remain unmarried or be reconciled to her
husband — and a husband is not to divorce his wife. 12 But I (not the Lord) say to the
rest: If any brother has an unbelieving wife and she is willing to live with him, he
must not divorce her. 13 Also, if any woman has an unbelieving husband and he is
willing to live with her, she must not divorce her husband. 14 For the unbelieving
husband is made holy by the wife, and the unbelieving wife is made holy by the
husband. Otherwise your children would be unclean, but as it is they are holy. 15 But
if the unbeliever leaves, let him leave. A brother or a sister is not bound in such cases.
God has called you to live in peace. 16 Wife, for all you know, you might save your
husband. Husband, for all you know, you might save your wife.

**Briefly restate the context. How is it encouraging, challenging, comforting, etc.?**

# Study

**Answer the questions together based on the Bible verses:**

1. What does Paul suggest as a remedy to the problem of sexual immorality in the church? (vv.1-5, 8-9) Why might his advice seem surprising to non-belivers?

2. What is the difference between the command given in v.10 than v.12? Why would it be helpful for Paul to make this distinction?

3. How is Paul emphasizing reconciliation in marriage in vv.10-11? How does Paul advise a believing spouse in the case that an unbelieving spouse does not want to reconcile?

# Share

**Discuss 1:**
In the message, Pastor Takeshi talked about feeling robbed at a buffet when roast beef was not served, despite paying more for the option. Similarly, how does regular sexual intimacy prevent a marriage leading to couples having feelings of frustration, resentment, or even betrayal? (cf. v.4, 1 Corinthians 6:20, Ruth 4:10)

**Discuss 2:**
Paul teaches the goal of staying in marriage with a non-believer, is the hope of leading the unbelieving spouse to salvation. What does mean for life within the home, and what are some common issues to avoid? What might this have to do with worship in their lives?

**Minister to one another through sharing specific prayer requests.**