

“The Marriage Bed” **I Corinthians 7:1-7**

Marriage & Marital Sex are good... It appears that some in Corinth were advocating that all Christians lead celibate lives, even those who were married. While Paul acknowledges the benefits of being celibate and unmarried, he does not endorse celibacy to those who are married.

Marital Sex is Mandatory for the Christian Marriage (7: 2-5)... In fact, Paul commands the married couple to give themselves to one another sexually.

Marital Sex is helpful in fighting off temptation (7:2&5)... While sex within marriage has multiple benefits, our passage reveals that it has the very important benefit of helping Christians to fight off sexual temptations.

Marital Sex is a Mutual Serving of one another (7:3-4)... We must not carry our world’s distorted perspective of sex into our marriages. Sex is not a selfish gratification of lusts but an opportunity to serve your spouse. We are to be Christ-like even in the bedroom.

Both Celibacy & Marriage are Gifts from God (7:7)... Paul sees the benefits of his own way of life as an unmarried celibate, but acknowledges that both celibacy (freedom from sexual need) and marriage are God-given gifts.

Questions for Discussion:

1. What is the most convicting thing about this passage for you personally?
2. If married, what can you do to keep the romance alive in your marriage?
3. Why would Paul consider being unmarried celibate a gift?
4. If unmarried, are you glorifying God in your singleness? How?