



# Right Sex

## Introduction:

The Corinthian church had two wrong views on sex. It was seen either as a “free-for-all”, with no restrictions, or it was seen as bad, even within marriage. The question they had posed to Paul, was if they should be having sex within marriage. The text we are looking at today is Paul’s response to their question.

## Today’s Scripture Text

### 1 Corinthians 7:1-9

## Sermon Points

### #1. Sex is the right gift

- Read 1 Corinthians 7:1-2 & Matthew 19:4-7  
Paul did not see marriage and sex as better than remaining single and celibate. But he also understood that sexual desire could be more consuming for some than for others. To put their confusion to an end, Paul taught the Corinthians that sex within marriage was right, and that it should be taken seriously. He pointed them to Jesus’ words in Matthew 19, which affirmed the permanence of marriage between a man and a woman, of which their sexual union is a significant part. By God’s design, marriage and sex were given to humanity as a gift. Not only does this make sex in marriage right, but it is also to be freely enjoyed within that context. Paul also suggests that for those who are struggling too much with sexual temptation, that they too get married, so that they can rightly enjoy God’s gift of sex within marriage.
  - ♣ Why do you think the Corinthians were pulled into such extreme views about sex?
  - ♣ In what ways do you think the modern church has continued these extreme views on sex, and thus contributed to the guilt/shame or even fear of sex? Has this been a struggle along your Christian journey? Explain.
  - ♣ Why are God’s parameters for sex (i.e. within marriage only) so incredibly beneficial to us as human beings, despite the temptation to believe otherwise?
  - ♣ Why do you think Paul said to marry rather than to give in to sexual temptation (sex outside of marriage)?
  - ♣ In what way then, is marriage also a means of God’s grace?

### #2. Sex is the right gift – to be enjoyed in the right place

- Read Matthew 19:4-6, Genesis 2:24 & 1 Corinthians 7:8-9  
God instructs us clearly in scripture that sex is to be enjoyed within marriage ONLY.



Fortunately, the Bible clearly defines that marriage is:

- Between one man and one woman
- A mutual covenant
- Exclusive
- Life long

Sexual sin is any sexual practice outside of God's parameters for marriage. Some of these are obvious, such as:

- Same gender sexual acts
- An affair –emotional or sexual
- Sexual violence – nonconsensual sex of any kind

But there are other ways in which we could be breaking the marriage covenant, and gaining selfish sexual pleasure that is not experienced with our spouses, such as:

- Pornography, sexting, flirting online in any way
- NSA (no-strings-attached) relationships – “friends with benefits”, one-night stands, paid sex etc.

And then there is the category of sexual sin by the committed-but-not-yet-married:

- A significant other – someone who is **STILL** not your spouse. Whether you plan to get married or not, until you become husband and wife, your significant other is your brother/sister in Christ and should be treated with that kind of honour and consideration. You are not married until you are married.

The way in which we respond to the Bible's instruction for our sexuality shows us a few things about how much we:

- believe the scriptures to be God's instructions for us (belief)
- believe that God's words are for our good and actually give us life, even in their restrictions (trust)
- are willing to lay down in order to obey God (obedience)

- ♣ Why does it help us to know what biblically defined marriage is?
- ♣ Why do you think that sexual immorality is more than just the sexual act outside of marriage (such as texting, emotional affairs etc.?)
- ♣ Why is it sinful for both married and single people to engage with pornography?
- ♣ Why is it sinful for committed-but-not-yet-married believers to be having sex?
- ♣ Why do you think our response to the Bible's instructions around sex is telling about our relationship with God?
- ♣ What do you think repentance would look like for someone who is struggling with pornography or other forms of sex addiction?
- ♣ How can we, as a community, help one another to live sexually pure and free within marriage, and why do you think we are reluctant to bring this issue into the light?

Q: What is the one main take-away from this message that God is asking you to take home and apply this week?



The final point is a consideration for married couples, therefore there are no group discussion questions on it.

### **#3. Sex is the right gift – to be enjoyed in the right place – for the right reasons**

- Read 1 Corinthians 7:3-6

Sex in marriage also has parameters, so that it is healthy and beneficial:

- sex should be beneficial to both parties
- sex cannot be used as a weapon of manipulation; therefore, it cannot be demanded abusively or withheld for selfish reasons
- sex is to be other-centered, not self-centered
- sex should continue throughout marriage apart from when both parties wish to temporarily fast