



“Letters to the Corinthians” Study Notes

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Lesson 12: The Two Become One Flesh

1 Corinthians 7:1-5

Read Genesis 2:18-24. What was “not good”? What solution did God have for this? Where was this solution to be found? What did the man say when he was presented with this solution? What is the conclusion of this event in verse 24? What does this necessarily exclude? What does this necessarily INCLUDE?

Read Matthew 19:3-9. What question was brought before Jesus? What was His response? What is He referencing here? Again, what does this necessarily exclude?

Why does Jesus say that Moses allowed divorce certificates? What does this say about how seriously God takes marriage? How does this passage, a record of Jesus’ own words, line up with 1 Corinthians 7:1-5?

Read Hebrews 13:4. This direction is given in the midst of other commands on how to live lives that are pleasing to God. What does it mean to honor marriage? What does it mean to “keep the marriage bed undefiled”? What activity does this cover?

Read Ephesians 5:22-33. How should a wife interact with her husband? Why? What is the example being followed here? How is a husband supposed to love his wife? What example is he following? Why did Christ do this?

How does Christ feel toward the church? Why? What passage of Scripture is quoted in verse 31? What does Paul say is a profound mystery? How should wives treat their husbands?

Do you see how intimately marriage is tied in with our relationship with Christ? Because of this, do you see why there is so much stress placed on honoring marriage, and especially the sexual aspect of marriage?

Ladies, as you spend time with God today, consider how you are honoring marriage, whether your own or the marriages around you. Do you see marriage as precious and serious as God does, or do you see marriage as just one optional way to enjoy sexual intimacy?

We can do so much damage to our own marriages and to the marriages of others when we do not understand how seriously God takes marriage. Ask God

to help you to see ways to encourage others in their marriages, and ask God to help you to see ways that you can encourage your spouse (if you are married) in your own marriage.

If you are unmarried and reading this today, ask God to help you to understand why sexual intimacy is uniquely to be enjoyed by husbands and wives, and ask Him to help you to line up with HIS thinking on this. The world is full of so many opinions as to what sexual intimacy should be; ask God to help ground you in what HE has given sexual intimacy for, and ask Him to help you to hold fast to His truth about sexual intimacy.

Sexual intimacy is a good gift from God, from the time of the first man and woman, and, when we accept that gift within the boundaries God has set forth, we bring Him glory and honor. Praise God for the good gifts He has given, and thank Him for His kindness in providing boundaries for this good gift.