



PREACHING THE CROSS
God's Remedy for a Troubled Church

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF LAKE ORION

Marriage: A Key to Purity

Sunday, July 10, 2016

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TEXT: 1 Corinthians 7:1–9

I. REVIEW

- A. The First Slogan:** *All things are lawful for me, but not all things are profitable. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be mastered by anything, 6:12.*
- B. The Second Slogan:** *Food is for the stomach and the stomach is for food, and God will do away with both of them, 6:13a.*
- C. The Third Slogan:** *Every other sin that a man commits is outside the body, 6:18b.*

II. THE FOURTH SLOGAN: *It is good for a man not to touch a woman, 7:1b.*

A. The Corinthians Wrongly Applied this Slogan to *Condemn Marriage and Condone Singleness.*

- 1. The Source of the Slogan:** *Is this Paul's statement or is this a Corinthian statement from the letter Paul received?*

If this is a Pauline statement, then the verse is to be rendered as : *Now concerning the things about which you wrote, [I SAY] it is good for a man not to touch a woman.*

If this is a Corinthian slogan, then the verse is to be rendered as: *Now concerning the things about which you wrote, [YOU SAY IN YOUR LETTER] it is good for a man not to touch a woman.*

It is best to view the statement as a Corinthian slogan

- 2. The Significance of the Idiom:** *What does the expression “not to touch a woman” mean?*

- a. **Option 1:** *It is good not to touch a woman.* (KJV, NASB)
- b. **Option 2:** *It is good not to have sexual relations with a woman.* (ESV)
- c. **Option 3:** *It is good not to marry.* (CEV, NIV before 2011)

It is best to view the verse as referring to marriage, i.e., It is good not to marry.

Believing that they had arrived spiritually and had already entered the new age by the Spirit, the Corinthians were insisting that in this new age there is neither marrying nor giving in marriage. According to them, marriage is for the temporal not the eternal. Since the body counts for nothing, they could fulfill their physical needs with prostitutes. They concluded that it is good for those who are single not to marry and for those who are married to divorce.

- 3. The Sense of the Verse,** *Now concerning the things about which you wrote, [You say in your letter] “it is good for a man not to marry.” But because of immoralities, [I SAY] each man is to have his own wife, and each woman is to have her own husband.*

B. Paul Responds to this Slogan by Affirming the Importance of Marriage in Maintaining Purity, *2 But because of immoralities, each man is to have his own wife, and each woman is to have her own husband.*

1. Reasons for Marriage in Scripture

- a. **Marriage is to serve as a living illustration of Christ’s love for the Church,** Eph 5:22–33.
- b. **Marriage is for the procreation of other image bearers,** Gen. 1:28.
- c. **Marriage is for companionship,** Gen. 2:18.
- d. **Marriage is also for pleasure,** Pro. 5:18.

2. The Reason for marriage in context: purity, 7:2

Marriage protects from sexual immorality by meeting the need for physical fulfillment.

- a. **The husband and the wife each have the responsibility to satisfy the other,** 5:3–4.

- b. For the husband or the wife to withhold intimacy from the other is the same as defrauding, 7:5a.**
- c. The Husband and the wife *can* refrain from intimacy for one purpose alone: prayer, 7:5b**

The conditions for refraining:

- (1) Both must agree to the abstinence.
- (2) The abstinence must be for a set time.

- d. The husband or the wife who continues to defraud his or her spouse is setting up the other for the Tempter, 7:5c.**

C. Paul Responds to this Slogan by Reflection on His Own Status, 7:7.

- 1. Singleness is a gift.**
- 2. Marriage is also a gift.**

D. Paul Responds to this Slogan by Advocating Marriage for Widowers and Widows Who Cannot Control Themselves, 7:8–9.

III. APPLICATION: *Stop depriving one another.*

- A. The intimate relationship in Marriage is Good and Essential for Marital Purity.**
- B. The intimate relationship is not to be viewed as the “privilege” of the husband and the “duty” of the wife. It is the privilege and the duty of both.**
- C. Withholding intimacy is taking away conjugal rights that belong to your spouse.**

Paul not only prohibits the “defrauding” of one another, but also prohibits the holding back of sexual relations as a means of manipulation within the marriage relationship. This destroys mutual love and respect.