

SERMON APPLICATION GUIDE

1 CORINTHIANS: A BEAUTIFUL MESS

1 Corinthians 7:10–16

DISCUSSION 1: A GIFT, NOT A GOD (7:1-6)

1. What are the dangers of viewing sex as ultimate and then viewing sex too lightly?
2. What are ways sex is misused outside of marriage? What are ways sex can be misused within marriage? Are there ways—even in marriage—we can pursue sex selfishly that might erode rather than build oneness and intimacy?
3. Are there any ways you pursue sex selfishly, have made it an idol, or have not thought about it biblically? How can others in this group (of the same gender) help you in this area?

DISCUSSION 2: FIVE TRUTHS CONCERNING SEX (7:1-6)

Here are five truths about sex we discussed last Sunday.

- Sex is to be experienced between a husband and a wife (7:2).
 - Sex is a gift from God to enjoy (7:2).
 - Sex is a mutually unifying expression of oneness (7:3-4)
 - Sex is to be a priority (7:5).
 - Sex serves as a means of spiritual protection (7:5).
1. How does the fact that God created sex to be enjoyed help us have a positive view of it rather than view it as shameful, help us think rightly about sex?
 2. What might it look like for sex to be a priority in your marriage? How can both spouses talk about this together so they're on the same page when it comes to what this might look like in their own marriage?
 3. How does sex within marriage provide spiritual protection (7:5)?
 4. Which of the five truths about sex was most helpful and why?

DISCUSSION 3: DIVORCE & REMARRIAGE (7:10–16)

1. In what sense is a family member “made holy” by a believing family member?
2. How does this section speak into the spiritual influence one spouse can have on another? How can this encourage you in marriage despite where your spouse might be at today spiritually?
3. What are ways the world might give counsel regarding divorce and remarriage different from 1 Cor. 7:10–16? What is some advice you might give a friend in a struggling marriage based on this passage?
4. What are ways you are guarding your marriage to protect against divorce? How can others in this group encourage you to be intentional about growing and protecting your marriage?
5. Which of the following myths are most dangerous? Why?
 - Myth #1: Divorce is permitted when you “fall out of love”
 - Myth #2: Remarriage is permitted for any divorcee
 - Myth #3: Divorce is the automatic response to marital unfaithfulness
 - Myth #4: Divorce is only permitted for infidelity
 - Myth #5: Divorce is the unforgiveable sin