



# SERMON NOTES

Sunday, February 12, 2023 | Pastor Scott Boerckel

## Answering Our Questions about Marriage and Singleness

1 Corinthians 7:1-16

1. Four questions about physical intimacy in marriage  
(1 Corinthians 7:1-7)

**Question #1:** In view of the immorality around us, what is a proper view of human sexuality? (v.1)

**Question #2:** How can our sexuality be good? (v.2)

**Question #3:** Are there ways that husbands and wives can best serve their spouses in their physical relationship? (vv.3-4)

**Question #4:** Is it ever right to withhold physical union from one's spouse? (vv.5-7)



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Sermon Notes

## 2. Important lessons for the married, the unmarried, and the rest (1 Corinthians 7:8-16)

- For the unmarried believer, it is good to stay unmarried. (v.8)
- For the married believers, there is only one command: stay married. (vv.10-11)
- For the rest (believers who are married to unbelievers)—stay married if they will have you. (vv.12-16)

### Table Talk

- 1) Why is it often better to get married than to remain single? (vv. 1-2, 9) Which is better in Paul's opinion, marriage or singleness? (vv. 6-7) Why do evangelicals today almost 100% disagree with Paul about this? Why does the church today seem to look down on single adults as less mature, less fulfilled people? How can we at East White Oak correct that error?
- 2) How can our sexuality be a good thing? (v. 2) In what ways can husbands and wives best serve their spouses in their physical relationship? (vv. 3-4) What does it mean within marriage not to have authority over one's own body but that one's body belongs to the spouse? Is it ever right to withhold physical intimacy from one's spouse? What is the one circumstance that Paul suggests it is possible? What limitations does he place on that circumstance? (v. 5) How should Paul's teaching in verses 2-5 be used with profit? Why should spouses not "clobber" their partners with these verses? Why do you think that there is such a focus on mutuality in verses 2-5?
- 3) What is Paul's instruction for unmarried believers? (vv. 8-9) Do we ever encourage a person to singleness? Why or why not? What is Paul's instruction for believers married to believers? (vv. 10-11) If believers divorce, what instruction does Paul give for the believers who are divorced? (v.11) What is Paul's instruction to believers married to unbelievers? (vv. 12-16) In the first two cases of believers married to unbelievers (vv. 12-13), what should happen? How might staying with an unbelieving spouse be hard? What might be a positive outcome for staying with an unbelieving spouse? (v. 14) In the third case of believers married to unbelievers (vv. 15-16), what should happen? What is the goal of staying together with an unbeliever or of allowing the unbeliever to divorce? (v. 16) In what sense are we called to "save people"?