

# Messy

Part Eight: *guidelines for singles*

June 26, 2022

After instructing the Christians in Corinth to run from sexual immorality in chapter six, Paul begins answering some questions the Corinthians had asked him in a letter. The first question Paul takes on has to do with marriage, an area in which the Corinthians had big problems.

- **In 7:1-9, Paul gives Christian singles some guidelines for marriage.**

**1<sup>st</sup> - Paul tells singles to abstain from sex.**

**1 Corinthians 7:1**

Paul tells the single men and women in the Corinthian church that it is good to abstain from sex. He doesn't give any reasons why it is good that singles abstain from sex because he already did so in chapter six.

*In 1 Corinthians 6, Paul tells singles...*

- Premarital sex is a sexual sin. 6:9-11
- Premarital sex will enslave you. 6:12-17
- Premarital sex will hurt your body. 6:18-20

**2<sup>nd</sup> – Paul tells singles it is okay to get married and avoid sexual immorality. Vs. 2**

Some of the Christian singles in Corinth believed sex was sinful, so they made a vow to remain single and celibate. But Paul knew that many of these singles did not have the ability to remain celibate, so he told them it was alright to get married and in so doing avoid sexual sin.

**3<sup>rd</sup> – Paul tells singles how to practice sex in marriage. Vs. 3-5**

Paul says a husband and wife are to fulfill each other's sexual needs, so they do not fall to Satan's sexual temptations. Husbands and wives have a duty to sexually satisfy each other. The only time a husband and wife are to fast from sex is when they are devoting themselves to a specific time of prayer.

**4<sup>th</sup> – Paul tells singles that God gives some people the ability to remain single. Vs. 6-8**

Many people today believe that singleness is wrong or weird, but God wants some people to remain single. *Why?* Because single people can devote more of their time, energy, and money to serving God than married people can (1 Corinthians 7:32-34).

**5<sup>th</sup> – Paul tells singles that are burning with lust to get married. Vs. 9**

*How can a single person know whether he or she is called by God to remain single?* If a single does not have a strong desire to have sex, they are to remain single. But, if a single does have a strong desire to have sex, they should take the proper steps at the appropriate time to find their soul mate and get married.

*Here is today's lesson...*

**Christian singles are to remain celibate until they get married.**