

Please open your Bibles up to I Corinthians 6-7. We'll be looking at two chapters today exploring the infancy of this new congregation.

Take 15 minutes....

1. Describe a marriage that you have observed that gave you an idea on what a good marriage is to be.
2. As you look around our culture today, what concerns or encourages you about marriages?

As we move into chapter 6, Paul is going to address specific topics. When we look at chapter 7, you'll see Paul refer to questions that were sent to him.

1. Vs. 1-8, Paul addresses the idea of taking fellow members to court. After you have heard an explanation on the video, pause the video.

Why is this such a big deal to Paul? (Notice the contrast between the Greek culture and the Jewish culture.)

What is vitally important to Paul and his desire for the Corinthians?

2. Vs. 9-11, Paul lists all sorts of sins that were just read on the video. These are not "nice" people and Paul is clear that they will not inherit the Kingdom of God.

And then he notes, **"And that is what some of you were. But you were _____,**

You were _____, you were _____ in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

3. **Everything is _____ for me but not everything is**

_____." Paul is setting the foundation for a very difficult conversation on sexual immorality.

A common Greek proverb, "The body is a tomb" and the Greek stoic philosopher said, "I am a poor soul, the human spirit; the body was a thing that did not matter."

4. For a follower of Jesus, our body is a _____. Look at vs. 15 and 19. You'll see them on screen.

5. Paul is certainly point followers of Jesus to a _____
_____.

Chapter 7

The Corinthians are asking a number of questions about marriage. You'll see in vs. 1, "now the matters you wrote about..." They had sent Paul questions and now through the rest of the epistle he's going to answer there questions.

In essence, he is helping them clarify what it means to be a follower of Jesus in community. I would wish we would struggle with that question in our congregation more intentionally.

As you have read through the chapter, you may have questions. I'm not intending to do this chapter verse by verse. This chapter is really cover a wide number of topics. Here are some general comments:

1. Paul is not _____. He is pro marriage. (vs. 1) **It is good for a man not to marry, but since there is so much immorality each man should have his own wife, and each woman her own husband.** Check out his instruction about marriage in Ephesians 5.

Vs. 2-7, because of the Greek immorality, new married Christians not to be intimate. Paul is clear, "Do not do that."

2. Vs. 12-14, What do you do if you are married to an _____?
We would have the same issue today.

"...the unbelieving [husband or wife] has been sanctified through their faith..."

This means:

3. Vs. 32-35, Paul does encourage _____ but does NOT command it. Paul has a very pragmatic reason for endorsing celibacy...you aren't distracted from worldly responsibilities. It makes sense and over the ages there are those who have made that decision.

For conversation:

1. Looking at ch. 6, what is a higher calling? How does one even start living out that calling?
2. Looking at chapter 7 and the various topics on marriage, choose one or two and spend some time talking about them.
3. What does all of this have to do with community?

Next Meeting:

Please read **I Corinthians 8-10** for your next meeting.