

busybodies, saying what they should not. ¹⁴ **So I would have younger widows marry, bear children, manage their households, and give the adversary no occasion for slander.**

3. A Command to the Married about _____.

1 Corinthians 7:10-11 (ESV): “**To the married** I give this charge (not I, but the Lord): the wife should not separate from her husband ¹¹ (but if she does, she should remain unmarried or else be reconciled to her husband), and the husband should not divorce his wife.”

Romans 7:1-3 (ESV): “Or do you not know, brothers—for I am speaking to those who know the law—that the law is binding on a person only as long as he lives? ² **For a married woman is bound by law to her husband while he lives,** but if her husband dies she is released from the law of marriage. ³ **Accordingly, she will be called an adulteress if she lives with another man while her husband is alive.** But if her husband dies, she is free from that law, and if she marries another man she is not an adulteress.”

JESUS AND THE EXCEPTION CLAUSE

Matthew 5:31-32 (ESV): “It was also said, ‘Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.’ ³² But I say to you that everyone who divorces his wife, **except on the ground of sexual immorality,** makes her commit adultery, and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.”

Matthew 19:1-12 (ESV): “Now when Jesus had finished these sayings, he went away from Galilee and entered the region of Judea beyond the Jordan. ² And large crowds followed him, and he healed them there. ³ And Pharisees came up to him and tested him by asking, ‘Is it lawful to divorce one’s wife for any cause?’ ⁴“He answered, ‘Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female,’ ⁵ and said, ‘Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh?’ ⁶ So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate.” ⁷ They said to him, ‘Why then did Moses command one

to give a certificate of divorce and to send her away?’” ⁸ He said to them, “Because of your hardness of heart Moses allowed you to divorce your wives, but from the beginning it was not so. ⁹ And I say to you: **whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality,** and marries another, commits adultery.”

4. Advice to _____ Married to _____.

1 Corinthians 7:12-16 (ESV): “**To the rest I say** (I, not the Lord) that if any brother has a wife who is an unbeliever, and she consents to live with him, he should not divorce her. ¹³ If any woman has a husband who is an unbeliever, and he consents to live with her, she should not divorce him. ¹⁴ For the unbelieving husband is made holy because of his wife, and the unbelieving wife is made holy because of her husband. Otherwise your children would be unclean, but as it is, they are holy. ¹⁵ But if the unbelieving partner separates, let it be so. In such cases the brother or sister is not enslaved. God has called you to peace. ¹⁶ For how do you know, wife, whether you will save your husband? Or how do you know, husband, whether you will save your wife?”

THE POINT: _____ as you are!

1 Corinthians 7:17-24: “**Only let each person lead the life that the Lord has assigned to him, and to which God has called him.** This is my rule in all the churches. ¹⁸ Was anyone at the time of his call already circumcised? Let him not seek to remove the marks of circumcision. Was anyone at the time of his call uncircumcised? Let him not seek circumcision. ¹⁹ For neither circumcision counts for anything nor uncircumcision, but keeping the commandments of God. ²⁰ **Each one should remain in the condition in which he was called.** ²¹ Were you a slave when called? Do not be concerned about it. (But if you can gain your freedom, avail yourself of the opportunity.) ²² For he who was called in the Lord as a slave is a freedman of the Lord. Likewise he who was free when called is a slave of Christ. ²³ You were bought with a price; do not become slaves of men. ²⁴ **So, brothers, in whatever condition each was called, there let him remain with God.**”

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS: On Sunday February 28 & March 5th there will be a “*Ministry Fair*” in the lobby of SMC where the various ministries of SMC will be featured. Drop by before and/or after the services to check out the various areas of ministry involvement SMC has for you to serve in.

PRAYER: Take time to pray for **1)**. All the details associated with the build out of our facility (financing, plans, timing etc...). **2)**. Our Mexico Missions Team (Dennis & Shyla Morgan, the Hulse family, Betty Garrett & Pastor Cory) as we raise funds and prepare for our departure on March 26th. **3)**. Pray for each others needs.

REVIEW: Take a few minutes and review Sunday’s message. What new insights/observations did you glean? What challenged you? What did you have difficulty understanding? What would you like to know more about?

QUESTIONS:

1). What do the following passages have in common (1 Corinthians 7:1, 25; 8:1; 12:1; 15:1; 16:1)? How are 1 Corinthians chapters 7-16 different from 1 Corinthians chapters 1-6 (See 1:11; 16:17; 5:1)?

2). What are the differences between 1 Cor. 7:1 in different translations? Why do you think the translations differ? What are the issues in this passage that make the translation a bit challenging?

3). According to 1 Corinthians 7:1-7 Paul does not want married couples to ‘deprive’ each other sexually. Why? What could result in a marriage where ‘sexual relations’ are not regular? What are some of the reasons couples do not have regular sexual relations with each other? What would Paul say to them?

4). What is Paul speaking about in 1 Corinthians 7:7 when he says ‘*I wish that all were as I myself am. But each has his own gift from God.*’ What does this passage (7:7-8) tell us about the Apostle Paul? How does this passage relate to what Jesus said in Matthew 19:10-12?

5). How does society at large view divorce today? Why do you think society has this view? How does 1 Corinthians 7:10-11 challenge this thinking about divorce? How would you ‘counsel’ a friend considering a divorce?

6). Take some time to read through the following passages concerning divorce in order to get a better understanding of the Biblical teaching on the subject (Genesis 2:18-25; Deuteronomy 24:1-4; Matthew 19:1-9). What observations can you make from what you’ve read?

7). 1 Corinthians 7:12-16 deals with the issue of believers who are married to unbelievers. What is Paul’s advice to the believer? In light of this and the following passages, why is it **not** a good thing for a believer to marry an unbeliever (See Deut. 7:1-5; 1 Kings. 11:1-6; Ezra 9:1-4; 2 Cor. 6:14-15)?

SERIES: “Life in the Father’s House”

MESSAGE: “Marriage & the Christian Life”

1 Corinthians 7:1-24 / Pastor Cory Anderson / SMC / 02.21.10

INTRODUCTION:

1. Advice to the _____ about _____.

1 Corinthians 7:1-7 (ESV): “Now concerning the matters about which you wrote: “It is good for a man not to have sexual relations with a woman.”² But because of the temptation to sexual immorality, each man should *have* his own wife and each woman her own husband. ³ The husband should give to his wife her conjugal rights, and likewise the wife to her husband. ⁴ For the wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband does. Likewise the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife does. ⁵ Do not deprive one another, except perhaps by agreement for a limited time, that you may devote yourselves to prayer; but then come together again, so that Satan may not tempt you because of your lack of self-control. ⁶ Now as a concession, not a command, I say this. ⁷ I wish that all were as I myself am. But each has his own gift from God, one of one kind and one of another.”

2. Advice to _____ & _____ About Marriage & Singleness.

1 Corinthians 7:8-9 (ESV): “To the unmarried and the widows I say that it is good for them to remain single as I am. ⁹ But *if* they cannot exercise self-control, they should marry. For it is better to marry than to burn with passion.”

1 Corinthians 7:39 (ESV): “A wife is bound to her husband as long as he lives. But if her husband dies, she is free to be married to whom she wishes, only in the Lord.”

1 Timothy 5:1-14 (ESV): “But refuse to enroll younger widows, for when their passions draw them away from Christ, they desire to marry.¹² and so incur condemnation for having abandoned their former faith.¹³ Besides that, they learn to be idlers, going about from house to house, and not only idlers, but also gossips and