

## ENJOY YOUR MARRIAGE

Pastor Rene Lussier

### 1- PHYSICAL RELATIONSHIP: 1 CORINTHIANS 7:

*3 The husband should fulfill his marital duty to his wife, and likewise the wife to her husband.*

*4 The wife's body does not belong to her alone but also to her husband. In the same way, the husband's body does not belong to him alone but also to his wife. 5 Do not deprive each other...*

*1Cor 7:3 (KJS) Let the husband render unto the wife due benevolence: and likewise also the wife unto the husband.*

The Greek had a concept that the body was evil and to be despised. It brought a wrong view of marriage in the Greek society. This view even influenced some branches of Christianity. *"If married people are to be really good Christian, they must abstain from having intercourse with each other."* Sexuality would serve only for procreation.

- If we understand Paul's teaching in this chapter and live accordingly, it can become one of the keys for a successful marriage.

### MARRIAGE IS A PARTNERSHIP:

- Married couples are encouraged to have intercourse together when they mutually desire it.
- That is the way God intended it to be with the function to provide mutual pleasure and a deeper level of intimacy.
- God designed this dimension of relationship to be protected within the security which only marriage can provide.

1. Both partners should find in marriage their highest satisfaction of all their desires.
2. Each marriage partners should submit to the normal sexual desires of the other.
3. Such desires are natural and God-given. To refuse to fulfill the needs of your spouse is to open up the marriage to Satan's temptation such as adultery.

C.F. "...again so that Satan will not tempt you because of your lack of self-control."

The spirit of the passage not only forbids adultery, but polygamy, and self-satisfaction

*1Cor 7:3 (KJS) Let the husband render unto the wife due benevolence: and likewise also the wife unto the husband.*

**RENDER;** 591 apodidomi {ap-od-eed'-o-mee}; To pay off, discharge what is due; a debt, wages, things promised under oath; including conjugal duty

**DUE;** 3784 opheilo {of-i'-lo} To owe; that which is due, the debt; the goodwill due

**What is it that each spouse owes to one another?** Isn't it what they pledged to one another when they pronounced their vows?

What have they promised to give to one another? Isn't it every thing? Including all that I am, all that I have (money, possessions, cares, respect, protection, attention, faithfulness in times of need or abundance, in times of sickness or health, etc...)?

### MARRIAGE VOWS

#### Groom's part:

I **His name**, in the presence of God and these witnesses take you **Her name** as my wedded wife. I promise to live with you as becomes a man of God, to love you and cherish you as Christ loves the church, to encourage you in your desire to serve Jesus, to care for you, to defend you, to respect you, and be considerate to you, to be gentle and patient with you, to pray for you and bless you, to stand by you in all circumstances, in good times and in hard times, in sickness and in health, and to be true and faithful to you as long as we both shall live.

#### Bride's part:

I **Her name** in the presence of God and these witnesses take you **His name** as my wedded husband. I promise to live with you as becomes a woman of God, to encourage you in your desire to serve Jesus, to love you and cherish you, to care for you, to respect and obey you, to adorn myself with a quite and gentle spirit, to be considerate of you, to pray for you and bless you, and stand by you in all circumstances, in good times and hard times, in sickness and in health, and to be true and faithful to you as long as we both shall live.

*1Cor 7:4 (KJS) The wife hath not **power** of her own body, but the husband: and likewise also the husband hath not power of his own body, but the wife. 5 Do not deprive each other except by mutual consent and for a time so that you may devote yourselves to prayer. Then come together again so that Satan will not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.*

**POWER**; 1850 exousiazō {ex-oo-see-ad'-zō}

- To be master of the body; to have full and entire authority over the body;
- To be brought under the power of someone.

The NIV says the body does not belong to her alone...

- Let's look back to a similar text to help us understand this principle.

*1Cor 6:12 ... "Everything is permissible for me" --but I will not be mastered by anything.*

- **Lawful (permissible) . . . brought under the power (mastered by)--**
- The *Greek* words are from the same root, whence there is a play on the words:
- **All things are in my power, but I will not be brought under the power** of any of them.

He who commits "*fornication*," gives up his own legitimate power or liberty, and is "brought under the power" of an prostitute ([1 Corinthians 6:15](#);

*19 Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? **You are not your own**; 20 you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body*

- Spiritually, our bodies belong to God because Jesus paid the price to redeem us from our sins.
- Physically, our bodies belong to our spouse, because God designed marriage so that the two becomes one.
- Notice that Paul stressed equality in sexual relationships. Neither the male nor the female should seek to dominate the other.

The husband must never consider his wife simply as a means of self-gratification.

- **In marital counseling**, one of the major problems of the marriage is when one of the partners, usually the man (not always) demands his sexual rights regardless of its spouse's feelings. Nothing is more destructive than that.
- No one should distort the passage when it speaks of the wife not ruling over her own body and use it as a license to dominate, demand or abuse.
  - See in this verse, the beauty of reciprocity.
  - Your partner cannot fulfill himself/herself in this area.

**The power to give fulfillment to your mate depends on you.**

- Intimate intercourse in marriage is a gift that you are to freely offer to each other.
- It is not selfish, nor self-centered.
- Marriage provides God's ways to satisfy these natural physical desires and to strengthen the partners against temptations.
- Married couples have the responsibility to care for each other; therefore husband and wife should not keep themselves from one another, but seek to fulfill each other's needs and desires.
- This is why unresponsiveness on the part of the partner in this area always creates a problem in marriage.
- Even Paul was led to exhort us on one of the most frequent causes for disaster in marriage—When one refuse to grant the gift of enjoyment to its mate.

*... come together again so that Satan will not tempt you because of your lack of self-control*

Christian should overcome sexual selfishness and should not deprive each other.

If sexual intercourse is interrupted in marriage, three conditions are necessary:

1. Mutual consent
2. Limited time
3. Not selfish reasons

Of course, there are other aspect not covered here by Paul but by other scriptures of the OT (in the many laws), and also in unexpected or extreme occasions as accidents, diseases, other medical reasons, etc...

*3 The husband should fulfill his marital duty to his wife, and likewise the wife to her husband. The husband should seek to meet his wife's expectations in the area of sexuality and meet her emotional, physical and spiritual needs through understanding, love and kindness. And likewise the wife...*