

FRIENDSHIPS, RELATIONSHIPS & MARRIAGE

"ON A BREAK?"

I Corinthians 7:10-17, 27-34

The majority of our time in the last few lessons was spent talking about how to get together in relationship. Marriage, especially Christian marriage, can be a splendid thing. One of the reasons we "took apart" the traditional wedding ceremony was to ensure all parties involved understood what they were entering covenant for.

Responsibility in a marriage covenant is basically this:

MEN- Love your wives

WOMEN- Submit to your loving husband

CHILDREN – Obey your parents while you are underage – honor your

Parents for life

Basically the Apostle Paul's advice in I Corinthians 7 is this:

- In order to avoid fornication, it's good for a man not to touch a woman
- But when you do marry render due benevolence (physical intimacy and affection) to each other
- Discuss thoroughly and communicate (agree) with each other times when you will refrain from intimacy. (Cherish) There should always be a difference in how you treat your mate (See Gen 26:6-11).

To "defraud" means to deprive, withhold or draw back

SEPARATION: The scriptures admonish us not to separate or leave your mate. If you do, the bible says stay unmarried and be reconciled at some point.

REASONS TO SEPARATE/DIVORCE:

Dealbreakers: Cheating (extra-marital affairs), inability to stop contacting previous partners, no communication, no intimacy, no affection, unequally yoked (unbeliever), Partner does not believe like you do, violence, strong outside influences (friends/family).

Married life is not Necessarily LESS SPIRITUAL than single life. Let's be clear: The bible teaches that single people enjoy more "freedom" than married persons because they have less people to be responsible for. There is therefore more potential in single people for service to the Lord. A celibate life is of course less distracted by worldly cares. (1 Cor. 7:32-33).

If you just got married, scripture teaches that you should stay home with you mate for at least 1 year. Always working or tending to outside business will cause you to become disconnected from your mate and children. (Deuteronomy 24:5).

DIVORCE:

Deuteronomy 24:1-4, Matthew 5:31-32

Sexual unfaithfulness is a legitimate ground for divorce. Scripture, however, **DOES NOT EVER COMMAND** that you should divorce because of unfaithfulness. There are many biblical examples of forgiveness extended to the offending party; however, scripture also teaches that if you put your wife away without biblical basics, you cause her to commit adultery. Only one relationship at a time should be practiced and there should be no "unfinished business" between a couple who decides to divorce.

Issues concerning previous relationships can also be cause for divorce. For example: Mother of the children not married to the biological father, father has multiple "baby mamas", mother has multiple children by different fathers, father married but frequents baby mamas house, mother and father married to each other but both have children from previous relationships with one child together.