

What the Bible has to Say about Marriage, Sex, and Singleness
(1 Cor. 7)

If you want to be married, stay married

(Mal. 2:16; Matt. 5:31-32; 19:3-12; MK. 10:2-12; Lk. 16:18; 1 Cor. 7:10-13).

Marriage is a decision; *a great marriage is a decision to obey God* . A decision to obey God will enable you to stay married.

Like everything else in marriage, it takes two to make it great. Like everything else in life, you are responsible before God for what you do.

- Marriage is designed to promote the witness of God (Eph. 5:32) .

(*What it means to be married in Christ's body*)

Women who are members of Christ's body say yes to their husbands

Men who are members of Christ's body love their wives to death

...both unconditionally.

- Marriage is designed to protect people from sin (1 Cor. 7:1-5) .

Marriage is God's alternative to the temptation to sexual immorality—the marriage partner is one's only sexual option.

“But since there is so much immorality, each man should have his own wife and each woman have her own husband” (7:2).

“The husband should fulfill his marital duty to his wife, and likewise the wife to her husband” (7:3).

“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” (7:4).

“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” (7:5).

Give yourself away so potential sin goes away.

A husband and a wife are each other's protection from sexual immorality.

If you do get married, stay married . If you leave and are a woman, you must remain unmarried or be reconciled to your husband. If you are a man, you must not divorce your wife (1 Cor. 7:10-11; Mal. 2:16).

If you are married to an unbeliever, stay married . If the unbeliever leaves let him/her go (1 Cor. 13-14).

- Marriage is not for everybody (1 Cor. 7:7, 8, 25-40) .

You cannot have the benefits of singleness and the benefits of marriage at the same time. Each must choose to act upon one's gift; is it marriage or singleness? Each has its benefits and blessings for the Kingdom. In one case, you multiply people; in the other, you multiply yourself.

Options/Obligations:

If you are going to be married

ownership

- You give over

- You stay married

- You serve God by

serving your family

If you are going to be single

- You stay pure (celibate)

- You leverage your time and energy to serve God

- Marriage is designed to produce godly offspring (Mal. 2:13-16).

“And why one? Because he is seeking godly offspring. So guard yourself in your spirit, and do not break faith with the wife of your youth” (2:15).

Why retool your marriage—why respond to God’s total recall on your brand, your definition?

If you alienate each other, you alienate yourselves from God.

Another thing you do: you flood the Lord’s altar with tears. You weep and wail because he no longer looks with favour on your offerings or accepts them with pleasure from your hands. You ask, “why?” It is because the Lord is the witness between you and the wife of your youth. You have been unfaithful to her, though she is your partner, the wife of your marriage covenant (Mal. 2:13,14).

Husbands, in the same way, be considerate as you live with your wives. And treat them with respect as the weaker partner and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing will hinder your prayers (1 Pet. 3:7).

What definition of marriage are you displaying to the world around you?

If you fail to enrich your marriage, you will be attending divorce recovery workshops

A great marriage happens when two people decide to obey God.

Godly people choose obedience no matter what.