

REVITALIZING YOUR MARRIAGE

1 CORINTHIANS 7:1,2

INTRODUCTION:

1. Every marriage has issues that couples need to resolve.
2. 1 Corinthians 7 is the marriage chapter of the Bible.
3. How can we revitalize our marriages?

I. FIND A GOOD MARRIAGE COUNSELOR

- A. Where can a good marriage counselor be found?
 1. **1 CORINTHIANS 7.1:** *“Now concerning the things of which you wrote to me:”*
 2. This is a section that addresses questions the brethren asked in a previous letter. (1 Cor. 7.1; 8.1; 12.1; 16.1)
 3. The Corinthians held two extreme positions concerning marriage and sexual immorality. (1 Cor. 6.13; 7.1)
 4. To address their questions, they sought counsel from the the inspired pen of Paul. (1 Cor. 2.10-13)
- B. To revitalize your marriage, find counseling in the Bible.
 1. **PSALM 1.1:** *“Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly”* Those who do not regard God.
 2. **PSALM 1.2:** *“But his delight is in the law of the LORD”*

II. SEE SEXUALITY AS GOD SEES IT

- A. How does the world see sexuality?
 1. **1 CORINTHIANS 7.2:** *“because of sexual immorality”*
 2. In the world’s view of sexuality, there is no such things as immorality. (cf. 1 Pet. 4.4)
- B. How does God see sexuality?
 1. Sexual immorality is defined as giving into your sexual desires with one who is not your spouse. (1 Cor. 7.5,9,2)
 2. The body is not to be used for sexual immorality, but for the glory of God. (1 Cor. 6.13,18; cf. Rom. 6.13)

CONCLUSION: 1 THESSALONIANS 4.3: *“For this is the will of God, your sanctification...”*

NORTHSIDE CHURCH OF CHRIST

FEBRUARY 25, 2024

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“Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature”
-Mark 16.15

February 24, 2024

MEETING TIMES:

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS : 9:00 AM

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP: 9:50 AM

SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP: 6:00 PM

WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE CLASS 7:00 PM

CRITICAL TIMES

It is easy to sit in an easy chair and declare your intentions to live a faithful life. When you are feeling confident and secure, declarations of determination and promises of piety come naturally. But the real test is when you are faced with a temptation and make the right decision while feeling the tug of desire.

It is during this critical time that determines your success or failure. You can sit in your living room and say that you will never drink again. But when your friends invite you to a bar or when your co-worker offers you a bottle, will you still answer with the same determination?

You may say to yourself and to others that you will be there to worship God. But when you wake up Sunday morning and you are tempted to hit the snooze button, or you are tempted to stay home and watch the game, or get caught up on some housework, will you still commit to the assembling of ourselves together?

It is easy to be strong when you are not facing temptation. Paul warns, *“He who thinks he stands, take heed lest he fall”* (1 Cor. 10.12). It is the decisions that you make when you are most attracted to sin that make all the difference. God has given us every chance to resist the devil. He has provided an escape that we can bear it (1 Cor. 10.13). We just have to choose it. CLP

IS JESUS YOUR LORD AND CHRIST ACTS 21:13

INTRODUCTION:

1. **ACTS 2:36:** *“know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ.”* (cf. John 1.41)
2. In Acts 21, Paul has ended his third missionary journey and is on his way to Jerusalem.
3. Jesus was the Lord and Christ of Paul.

I. CONNECTION

- A. Paul felt a connection with the brethren.
 1. Paul traveled to various cities and stayed with his fellow brethren. (Acts 21.4,7,8,10)
 2. **ACTS 21.4:** *“And finding disciples...”* Literally, Paul sought out the brethren to stay with them.
- B. When Jesus is your Lord and Christ, you will have a connection with your fellow brethren.
 1. **EPHESIANS 4.15,16:** *“body, joined and knit together”*
 2. We are to treat each other as family. (1 Tim. 5.1,2)

II. AFFECTION

- A. Paul felt affection for his brethren.
 1. The disciples pleaded with Paul *“not to go up to Jerusalem”* (Acts 21.4; 10-12).
 2. Paul replied, *“What do you mean by weeping and breaking my heart”* (Acts 21.13).
- B. When Jesus is your Lord and Christ, you will feel affection for your brethren.
 1. **1 PETER 1.22:** *“love one another fervently”*
 2. Loving the brethren is what Jesus requires as His disciples. (John 13.34,35)

III. PROTECTION

- A. Paul protected the faith of his brethren.
 1. Arriving in Jerusalem, Paul is told about two groups of Christians: Jews and Gentiles. (Acts 21.20,25)
 2. Paul made concessions for the Jews. (Acts 21.20,21,26)
 3. Paul made concessions for the Gentiles. (Acts 21.25)
- B. When Jesus is your Lord and Christ, you will protect the faith of your brethren. (Rom. 14.9; 15.3)

CONCLUSION: If Jesus is your Savior, make the decision today.

DO PEOPLE KNOW YOUR GOD?

The ancient Latin language has a word that has been integrated into our modern day English. It is the word “influence.” If you break down the word, you have the prefix, “in” which means the same then as it does today. The prefix is attached to the word “fluere” meaning, “to flow.” Put together, you have a word that means, “to flow in.” It is from this word that we get our English word, “influence.”

The word “influence” is nowhere found in the Bible. But the concept of influence fills the pages of Scripture. For example, Jesus asked the question, *“You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned?”* (Matt. 5.13). We are to be influential in this world. But if we lose our ability to influence, we have lost something precious. That same concept was also taught by Paul in Colossians 2 when he told us to *“become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world”* (Phil. 2.15).

In the Old Testament book of Joshua, Joshua sent two spies into Canaan to view the land (Josh. 2.1). These two spies came to the house of Rahab. If you skip down to verse 11, Rahab said to these two spies, *“the Lord your God, He is God in heaven above and on earth beneath”* (Josh. 2.11). What made Rahab come to know that the God of the Israelites was the God of all? When you back up to the previous verse, Rahab said, *“for we have heard how the Lord dried up the water of the Red Sea...and what you did to the two kings of the Amorites”* (Josh. 2.10). Rahab and the people of Jericho came to believe that the God of Israel was the one true God because they saw what God did through them.

The Psalmist wrote, *“Come and hear, all you who fear God, and I will declare what He has done for my soul”* (Ps. 66.16). God has the power to change your life. And this change is visible to all who are around you. There is a change in your behavior, a change in the way you talk, a change in the way you treat others, a change in your priorities. People see your transformation and can know that your God is the God of all.

Consider the example of the apostle Paul. This was a man who was *“breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord”* (Acts 9.1). After he was converted to Christ, the change was so dramatic that many could not believe it. Paul wrote about how brethren reacted to his change: *“He who formerly persecuted us now preaches the faith which he once tried to destroy.”* (Gal. 1.23). Later Paul reflected back on his past and wrote, *“that in me first, Jesus Christ might show all longsuffering, as a pattern to those who are going to believe on Him for everlasting life”* (1 Tim. 1.16). People could see the power of God in the life of Paul and be encouraged to come to Jesus themselves.

PHILIPPIANS 2.13: *“For it is God who works in you”* Do people see what God did through you? Can they see the changes in your life? CLP