

2012 Series “Advice On Marriage” (#01)
“Introduction to this series”

During the month of March, all my lessons will be taken from 1 Corinthians Ch.7.

Paul designed the special phrase, **Now Concerning**, to divide chs.7-16 into four sections (1 Cor.7:1; 8:1; 12:1; and 16:1). This special phrase was used to address specific problems about which the church leaders had written – “Now concerning the things about which you wrote.” (1 Cor.7:1)

Paul addressed at least the following ten problems regarding marriage in ch.7.

(1 Cor.7:1-2)	Introduction	(1 Cor.7:12-16)	Unequally Yoked and Divorce
(1 Cor.7:1-2)	Pre-marital Sex	(Matt.19:1-9)	Divorce and Remarriage
(1 Cor.7:7-9)	SEX: Widowed and Divorced	(1 Cor.7:17-24)	Status Quo
(1 Cor.7:3-6)	Marital Sex	(1 Cor.7:25-28)	Christian Virginity
(1 Cor.7:10-11)	Separation and Reconciliation		

Paul is writing to believers who had been converted out of the heathen Greek culture. This fact is important to our series of lessons.

Today’s lesson will introduce our series on Paul’s Advice on Marriage to the Corinthian Church by the following four points.

1. One must understand that the Greek culture had become a phallic cult culture. The Greek word Paul used to describe the phallic cult in the Greek culture was porneia (fornication).

(1 Cor.7:2) “But because of **immoralities** (tas porneia) [Plural fornications / many categories], let each man have his own wife, and let each woman have her own husband.”

The Greek culture had become hedonistic [evil fleshy pleasure was the ultimate goal of life] (Titus 3:3).

They believed in marriage for reproduction of family heritage, but threw away the divine laws of establishment (Matt.19:4-6). In its place, they could add recreational sex of every sort of fleshy pleasure outside of marriage, but even they had guidelines within family structure as mentioned in (1 Cor.5:1, 6-7).

2. The Greek and Roman cultures had abandoned marriage as a divine institution with divine laws of establishment. (Gen.2:18-25).

These Corinthian converts came out of the Greek phallic (porneia) culture. Because of this, Paul must teach Greek converts the basics of the five divine institutions.

• Freedom	(Gen.1:26-27)	Galatians and Romans
• Employment	(Gen.2:15; 3:17-19)	Ephesians and Colossians
• Marriage	(Gen.2:18-25; 3:16b)	Ephesians and Colossians and Corinthians
• Family	(Gen.1:28; 3:16b; 4:1)	Ephesians and Colossians
• Nation	(Gen.10:32; 11:8-9)	Romans and Ephesians and Colossians

Along with marriage, Paul advised on idolatry and the exercise of Christian liberty in (1 Cor.8:1) – “Now concerning things sacrificed to idols.” (1 Cor.8:9)

He also advised on spiritual gifts and pagan demonic worship in (1 Cor.12:1-3).

3. The Greek and Roman cultures kept the form of the Divine Institutions (DI) but threw away the divine laws of establishment for human ones that became evil ones.

Cultural heathenism seeks to establish a societal and culture without the truth of God or of the Bible or of the gospel of grace salvation of Jesus Christ (Acts 17:16-17, 24-27).

They **threw away** faith in a personal God for monotheism that became polytheism (Rom.1:18-23).

They **also threw away** the grace gospel of Christ for humanism that became a demonic pagan religion (Greek and Roman mythology. (Rom.1:18-32) (2 Thess.1:8-10).

They even named their children after their gods (Titus 3:12-13) Artemas, Tychicus, Zenas, and Apollos).

4. The Bible warns of destructiveness of phallic cult porneia upon divine institutions and civilizations.

The Phallic cult (porneia and hedonistic) life style is Satan’s strategy for the world (1 John 5:19; (2 Cor.2:11) [Book of Acts]

Satan works to destroy the inner structure of Divine Institutions and the Divine Agency influence within nations (Rev.20:7-10) (2 Cor.4:4; 11:13-15) (Mark 4:15).

The **Ante-Diluvian** world became a phallic (porneia) culture from the time of Jared to Noah (Gen.5:18-32; 6:1-4) (Jude 6-7) (2 Pet.2:4-10) [**Hedonism**].

The most famous biblical **Post-Diluvian** phallic (porneia) culture was Sodom and Gomorrah. Both had missionaries sent to them and both ended in divine judgment (Gen.6-11; and Gen.19).

Warning:

(Matt.24:38-39) “For as in those days which were before the flood they were eating and drinking, they were marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and they did not understand until the flood came and took them all away; **so shall the coming of the Son of man** be.”

Christians who pay attention to the **culture of the USA** realize that we are in a **cultural war** and are being influenced towards a phallic cult (porneia) life style in our education, arts, music, politics, and legislation.

How did God change the Roman and Greek phallic cult (porneia) cultures?

(Rom.1:14-17) (Book of Acts) They did it with the Gospel of Jesus Christ!

How can we change the direction that our culture is going in?