

2012 Series “Advice On Marriage” (#02)
“Sex, In the Sanctuary of Marriage”

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

Paul designed the special phrase, **Now Concerning**, to develop chs.7-16 into five sections (1 Cor.7:1; 8:1; 12:1; 16:1; and 16:12). Paul used this special phrase to address specific problems about which the Corinthian church had written (1 Cor.7:1).

(1 Cor.7:1-2)	Pre-marital sex	(1 Cor.7:17-24)	Status Quo
(1 Cor.7:3-6)	Marital Sex	(1 Cor.7:25-28)	Christian virginity
(1 Cor.7:7-9)	SEX: widowed and divorced	(1 Cor.7:29-35)	Marry or not to marry?
(1 Cor.7:10-11)	Separation and reconciliation	(1 Cor.7:36-38)	Engagement
(1 Cor.7:12-16)	Unequally yoked and divorce	(1 Cor.7:39-40)	Remarriage in Lord

We began this series Sunday with an introduction to the Greek hedonistic culture of Corinth of the first century AD (3/4/12).

Today’s lesson will address the first problem about which they had written, Pre-marital Sex.

We will study four aspects of the effect of Pre-marital Sex upon Christian Way of Life (CWL).

1. The sexual problem Paul addressed in ch.7 was the result of a conflict between the Greek hedonistic cultural norm and standards and the Christian way of life.

Paul used the Greek word porneia to describe the Greek hedonistic phallic cult of Corinth.

- (1 Cor.5:1-13) Danger of porneia leavening the whole lump
- (1 Cor.6:12-20) All forms of porneia are against believer’s body as the temple of Lord
- (1 Cor.7:1-9) Sex is sacred but only in marriage

The word Porneia is often mistranslated in English as immoralities or fornications. However, neither of these English words describes the degenerate sexual perversion that Paul is addressing.

2. Paul used porneia to describe the Greek degenerate phallic culture of Corinth.

He did this by using the Greek definite article and plural form of porneia (tas porneias / aplf)
“But because of immoralities.” (1 Cor.7:2a) [Categories] (NAS).

Let me mention nine categories of hedonistic porneia: pornography, pre-marital heterosexual, prostitution, homosexual, lesbianism, pederasty, incest, pedophilia, and bestiality.

(Luke 15:30, 13)	(porne / female prostitute)
(Eph.5:5, 8)	(pornos / male prostitute / idolatry
(1 Tim.1:10)	(paidierastes / pederasty / homosexual recruiting)

3. Paul placed heterosexual pre-marital sex in the porneia category in (1 Cor.7:1-2).

The sexual norm and standard of the Christian way of life is outlined by Paul in our lesson text:

(1 Cor.7:1) “**It** (is) good (kalos / nsn) [A suitable or appropriate for the situation] for a man (anthropos / dsm) **not** (me) **to touch** (hapto / p.m.infin) [used a noun] a woman (gune / gsf).”

Hapto refers to lighting a fire from a stark. In context, it refers to believers not arousing others sexually outside of marriage.

The middle voice of hapto means the man should not do it and the woman should not allow it (1 Cor.7:1).

(1 Cor.7:2) “**But (de) [adversative]** because (dia+acc. of cause) of immoralities (tas porneias / aplf)), let each man have (**echo / p.a.impv.2pl**) his own wife, and let each woman have (**echo / p.a.impv.2pl**) her own husband.”[It’s commanded]

3 Questions:

- “But everyone else is doing it.”
- “Isn’t sex a natural part of life like hunger and thirst?”
- “Why should we wait?”

Paul gave three answers to these questions in (1 Cor.6:12-20). He answered with another special phrase, “Do you not know?” (1 Cor.16:15, 16-17, 19-20).

(1 Cor.6:13b) “Yet the body is not for immorality, but for the Lord; and the Lord is for the body.”

Get this doctrinal point: As a Christian, your body belongs to the Lord. Jesus Christ redeemed it on the cross

(1 Cor.6:20) “For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body.” (Eph.1:6-7)
My body is for the _____.

4. Paul is teaching the Corinthian converts they are a new creation in Christ with new norms and standards for the CWL (2 Cor.5:17-21).

Like Jesus to the Jews, Paul is explaining the dynamics of grace salvation to these Gentiles.

When Jesus’ divine authority was challenged by the chief priest and elders, He gave this parable of two sons (Matt.21:28-32) **Question:** which of the two sons actually did the father’s will?

Jesus’ answer to their response to this question is important to our lesson (Matt.21:31-32) [Read]

Paul is teaching these Corinthian converts:

- That sex in the CWL was to be held to a higher standard than the world’s standard.
- That **Christian marriage** is also held to a higher standard than the world and even the divine institution of marriage.
 - It is held to the standard of **Christ and the Church** (Eph.5:22-33; Col.3:18-19).
 - (Eph.5:23) “For the husband is the head of the wife, Christ also is the head of the church, He Himself being the Savior of the body.”
 - (Eph.5:32) “This is great; but I am speaking with reference to Christ and the church.”