

2012 Series “Advice On Marriage” (#04)
“Sex in the Sanctuary of Marriage”

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

Today’s lesson title comes from two doctrinal principles.

- The first doctrinal principle is that every Church Age Believer’s (CAB) body becomes the temple of God at the moment of salvation (1 Cor.6:19-20; Gal.3:2; John 7:37-39).
- The second doctrinal principle is that two Christian bodies become one in marriage (Gen.2:24; Matt.19:5; Eph.5:31). Thus, our lesson is titled, Sex in the Sanctuary.

Today’s lesson will study four doctrinal principles of marital sex or Sex in the Sanctuary.

1. Paul wrote the seventh chapter of 1 Corinthians to get the Corinthian converts out of conformity thinking of the world and into transformational thinking of the Word of God (Rom.12:1-2).

To the Greek and Roman cultures, marital sex was for procreation and not recreational. They went outside of marriage for recreational sex. They were heterosexual in marriage but practiced hedonistic (porneia) sex outside of marriage (Eph.4:17-24; Rom.1:18-32).

So what does Paul hope to accomplish with these converts from hedonism? Read (Rom.1:1-6; 12:2; 1 Cor.1:22-25; 2:4-7; 3:1-3).

While marriage is a divine institution designed for the human race, Christian marriage is elevated to a higher standard of the new covenant and is compared to Christ and the church (Eph.5:22-33).

2. In our lesson text, Paul began by addressing the divinely delegated authority in the divine chain of command within the marriage institution by addressing the husband.

Christian husbands hold the divine delegated position of authority:

(1 Cor.7:3) “The husband (ho aner) must fulfill (**apodidomi** / **p.a.impv.3ms**) his duty (ten ophile) to his wife (te gune), **and likewise** (homoios) also the wife to her husband.”

The outline of the Divine chain of command:

(1 Cor.11:3) “But I want you to understand that **Christ is the head** of every man (husband), and **the man is the head** of a woman (wife), and **God is the head of Christ**.”

- Top to bottom: [God > Christ > husband > wife]

The important doctrinal principle in this divine chain of command is that the subordinate has access to the ranking authority (1 Cor.11:3; Heb.4:16). The Divine chain of command is there to protect the Plan of God, the Divine Institution of marriage and the believers. (1 Pet.3:1-7).

3. In the Christian marriage, neither partner has authority over his / her own body.

The other partner has authoritative responsibility over the other partner's body (1 Cor.7:4). This responsibility is not based on position of divine delegated authority.

This time the wife is addressed first::

(1 Cor.7:4) "The wife does not have authority over (exousiazō / p.a.ind.3ps) her own body, but the husband does, **and likewise** also the husband does not have authority over his body, but the wife does."

You ask, "How does this work?" It works from both Christians operating from New Man Divine Viewpoint (NMDV) thinking, regarding their doctrinal responsibilities.

- Christian husbands operate from (Eph.5:25-30, 33).
- Christian wives operate from (Eph.5:22-24, 33).

Christian marriage requires inter-dependence not independence (1 Cor.7:33-34).

- The soul requires the foreplay of mutual romance and affection for sexual pleasure.
- The body requires technique for mutual sexual pleasure.

God designed marital sex to bring partner-pleasure not self- pleasure. Christian marital sex is never about one's Old Sin Nature (OSN) lust gratification needs of self (Rom.6:12-14), but about the fruit of the indwelling Holy Spirit ministering to your partner (Gal.5:16, 22-23).

Pauline point: Anything outside mutual sexual pleasure is forbidden in the Christian marriage such as autoerotism, autopornography, or extra-marital affairs.

4. Paul gives only one exception for depriving one another sexually and then gives an explanation in (1 Cor.7:5).

- **Paul's exclamation:** "Stop depriving (me apostereo / p.a.impv.2pl) [command] one another, except (ei meti an) by (ek+abl.of source) agreement (sumphronos) for a time"
- **Paul's exception:** "that you may devote yourselves (scholazo / a.a.subj.2pl) **to prayer**"
- **Paul's explanation:** "come together again **so that** Satan will not tempt (peirazo / p.a.subj.3ps) you because of your lack of self-control (ten akrasia)." (1Cor.7:5)

Satan cannot tempt the Spirit-filled Church Age Believer (CAB) to sin. He works from the lust of the Old Sin Nature (OSN) (James 1:14-15; Eph.4:27; 2 Tim.2:26).

Pauline point: Sex should never be the cause of marital conflict in a Christian marriage. Yet marital research reports that it is the #1 cause of marital conflict in USA. Marital conflict is usually not about sex itself, but it comes up at the time of sex (James 4:1; 1 Cor.3:3)