

# The Sermon Connection

## Connecting Sunday's Teaching to Everyday Living

Volume 5 Issue 5



The Sermon Connection is a weekly handout to help you apply Sunday's sermon content to your everyday life. It is designed to give you additional insights and practical tools for applying the teaching throughout the week.

The application, reflection and connection questions may also serve as a springboard for discussion in your small group, your family time, or in one-on-one conversations.

### GODLY RELATIONSHIPS

#### Married and Loving It!

1 Corinthians 7:1-7

Calvin Lamar Brown, Sr.

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The month of February is a time when we think about relationships. With Valentine's Day right in the middle of the month, we are bombarded with ads about how to best take care of our "valentine." Pastor Calvin launched Destiny's series for the month of February which will look at Godly Relationships. This series is based on 1 Corinthians 7. It is interesting to note that The Apostle Paul addresses the four possible relationship statuses: married, divorced, single and widowed. In other words, no matter where you are at today relative to having a "valentine," the Bible speaks to it. And we know that when the Bible speaks to an issue it brings great wisdom.

Today's message was titled "Married and Loving It." In today's passage, Paul lays out principles for sexual intimacy. Sexual immorality pervades our culture! Every facet of society seems to celebrate sexually immorality as normal. However, God designed sexual intimacy, along with "rules of engagement." Namely, that sexual intimacy is a unique gift placed in the context of marriage. Furthermore, sexual intimacy is designed for the mutual fulfillment of the husband and wife, and that it is to be practiced with love and consideration, not with selfish motives or power-broking. When a husband and wife both follow the principles that Paul lays out in this passage, they will love being married!

Calvin walked us through several passages that served as cross references to 1 Corinthians 7. The Bible does not leave us wondering what the marriage relationship should look like. In Ephesians 5, Paul lays out the purpose and design of marriage. This passage is foundational to understanding what a Godly marriage looks like. Calvin then used 1 Corinthians 6 to show why intimacy should only occur in marriage: two become one flesh. There is a profound connection that occurs – and God intended that connection to occur only between a husband and a wife. Hebrews 13:4 reinforces the biblical imperative that sexual intimacy should only occur in marriage.

Calvin then pointed out that our culture is no better – and in many ways probably more sexually immoral – than Corinth was at the time of Paul's letter. Earlier in the letter he tells the believers at Corinth to *have nothing to do with a person who claims to be a believer but is sexually immoral*. This illustrates the importance of this issue and why it is so important that a husband and wife honor each other in this area. While some have the gift of celibacy (1 Corinthians 7:1, 7), it should certainly not be practiced in the context of marriage. Maintaining a healthy sexual relationship in marriage is one of the best ways to ensure that you will be married and loving it!

## **READING AND REFLECTION:**

Read 1 Corinthians 7:1-7. What does Paul say about celibacy? What does he say about marital duty in the area of sexual intimacy?

Read Ephesians 5:22-32. What do you learn about God's design and purpose for marriage?

Read Hebrews 13:4 and 1 Corinthians 6:15-16. How do these verses reinforce Paul's teaching in 1 Corinthians 7?

Read 1 Corinthians 5:9-11. How serious is the issue of sexual immorality to Paul?

## **PERSONAL APPLICATION:**

What is your view of sexual intimacy?

If married, how fulfilled/satisfied are you concerning sexual intimacy? How fulfilled/satisfied is your spouse? Ask your spouse this question and seek mutuality.

How do you distinguish the difference between purity and celibacy and virginity?

Have you taught your children about purity, sexual intimacy and related topics from a biblical perspective?

If single, have you set guardrails in place to practice purity and celibacy? In addition to the Holy Spirit, where does your accountability and support come from?

## **COMMUNITY CONNECTION:**

As you meet with your small group or family this week, discuss the current state of our culture. Do you see similarities to Corinth in New Testament times? What guardrails do you have in place to avoid getting swept away? How are you training your children? How can your small group help you train your children?

## **KEY POINT:**

**A husband and wife should be intimate enough so that neither is frustrated or tempted to cheat on the other.**

## **RESOURCES:**

[One-Year New Testament Bible](#) (Available at the Information Table on Sunday mornings)  
The Five Love Languages by Gary Chapman  
Passport2Purity by Dennis and Barbara Rainey (FamilyLife)