

The South Florida Avenue

MESSENGER

A Friendly Church With a Vital Message Proclaiming the Unsearchable Riches of the Lord Jesus.

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SUNDAY SERVICES

Bible Study.....9:30 a.m.
Worship.....10:30 a.m.
Evening Worship.....6:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

Ladies Class.....10:00 a.m.
Bible Study.....7:00 p.m.

HOME OF

Florida School of Preaching
since 1969

MISSION FIELDS

Dub Hill.....Russia
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Graham McDonald..Scotland
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Ted Wheeler.....Ghana, W.A.

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www.southfloridaavenuechurchofchrist.com



IN
SEARCH
OF THE LORD'S WAY

Sundays @ 8:30 a.m. Check local listings

First Corinthians 7:-7

General Principles of Marriage And Sexual Relations

Brian R. Kenyon

First Corinthians 7 is a tremendous chapter dealing with a tremendous, though often controversial, subject. Having a good handle on the truths taught in this chapter will be of untold value in better understanding marriage and its expediencies. Knowing this chapter will also help people see through the intricate web of human doctrines that cloud the issue of Scriptural marriage, divorce, and remarriage.

The chapter opens: "Now concerning the things of which you wrote to me" (1 Cor. 7:1a, NKJ). This indicates that Paul was responding to specific questions the Corinthians had previously asked. Although this chapter deals more with the *when* of marriage rather than the *who*, it is helpful to review key passages on God's view of marriage (such as Gen. 2:18-25; Mal. 2:11-16; Mt. 5:31-32; 19:3-9; Eph. 5:22-33).

Remaining Single Is Scriptural, But Not Always Expedient

Paul begins the instructions of this chapter by stating that a Christian not marrying is acceptable: "It is good for a man not to touch a woman" (1 Cor. 7:1b). "Touch [sexual relations, ESV]" in this context means more than just physical contact, but has to do with sexual relations (cf. Gen. 4:1; 20:6; Pr. 6:29). Paul's statement about the preferred state of celibacy must be considered in the context. Paul speaks elsewhere in this chapter of a "present distress" and having "trouble in the flesh" (1 Cor. 7:26, 28), which seems obvious as referring to something persecution related. Paul is saying that given the present situation of Christians being persecuted, it is best not to marry. Maintaining a marriage under peaceful times is hard enough, but with the added pressure of persecution, it is best not to be married. The prophet Jeremiah serves as a great illustration of this point. He lived in a time of severe persecution and was explicitly told by God not to marry (Jer. 16:1-4).

For some, however, marriage is necessary: "Nevertheless, because of sexual immorality, let each man have his own wife, and let each woman have her own husband" (1 Cor. 7:2). Since sexual desire is so strong in people and since fornication was so prevalent and acceptable in Corinth, it would be easy for a person living in Corinth to be enslaved by this sin. However, since a person's soul (*continued on page 2*)

is lost in such a condition of fornication (cf. 1 Cor. 6:9-10), marriage is necessary. “His own wife ... her own husband” shows that marriage must be a monogamous, heterosexual relationship (cf. Gen. 23-24; Mt. 19:4-6). Paul was not saying that the lawful fulfillment of sexual desires is the only reason for marriage, as some mistakenly think. Rather, he was dealing with a specific question they had asked. The total teaching of the Bible shows that in addition to the Scriptural fulfillment of sexual desires, reasons for marriage also include companionship (Gen. 2:18-20) and bearing and rearing children (1 Tim. 5:14).

These verses refute two extremes people sometimes take concerning marriage. First, based upon God’s command to Adam and Eve to be “fruitful and multiply” (Gen. 1:28; 2:18), some falsely assume that people must marry in order to please God. However, Paul taught remaining single is acceptable, and sometimes even preferable! Second, based upon verses 32-34 (which will be addressed in a subsequent article), some falsely assume that marrying makes one less pure, less holy, and less suitable for serving God. However, Paul taught marriage is good for some (cf. 1 Tim. 4:3; Heb. 13:4). Would Paul advise people to do something that would make them less useful to God?

Marriage Has Obligations and Privileges

Paul first wanted his readers to understand the obligation that each spouse owes the other in marriage: “Let the husband render to his wife the affection due her, and likewise also the wife to her husband. ⁴The wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband does. And likewise the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife does” (1 Cor. 7:3-4). “The affection due her [due benevolence, KJV; fulfill ... duty, NAS; give ... her conjugal rights, ESV]” means that each spouse owes the other intimacy. In marriage, each spouse gives his or her body to the other; therefore, all sexual rights are transferred to the other. This alone could argue for the divine inspiration of the Bible (2 Tim. 3:16-17). Paul would never have written from his own cultural background that a husband’s body belongs to his wife! Paul’s society was extremely male dominant, to the point that women were sometimes treated as mere property. Only where the Gospel has gone has a culture’s respect and honor for women increased!

Second, Paul taught that sexual abstinence in marriage was a privilege, but it had to be mutually agreed upon and only for a limited time. “Do not deprive one another except with consent for a time, that you may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again so that Satan does not tempt you because of your lack of self-control” (1 Cor. 7:5). The word “deprive [defraud, KJV]” means to steal, rob, or deny (cf. 1 Cor. 6:8). “Give ... [to] prayer” shows that the time apart should be filled with prayer. “Come together again” indicated the temporal nature of abstinence, lest one be controlled by temptation. The longer married couples abstain from sexual relations, the more likely they will succumb to the “lack of self control [incontinency, KJV].” Withholding sexual relations should never be used in a marriage as “bargaining chip,” or as a tool of manipulation! There are serious consequences, not only to the marriage, but also to the eternal destiny of each spouse.

Remaining Single Is Not For Everyone

By his statement, “I say this as a concession, not as a commandment” (1 Cor. 7:6), Paul was neither binding celibacy nor marriage. “As a concession [by permission, KJV]” is not an indication of Paul’s uninspired opinion. Rather, he was giving inspired permission (1 Cor. 7:40), not a command. Paul wanted the Corinthians to remain single, “even as I myself,” but he recognized that all were not able, for “each one has his own gift from God, one in this manner and another in that” (1 Cor. 7:7). Paul attributed his ability to live single and self-controlled as a “gift from God,” but all are not so gifted (cf. Mt. 19:11-12). This fact does not give license to sin (Rom. 6:1-2), but it does show that marriage is more necessary for some than it is for others.

Have you not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female, And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh? Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What God hath joined together, let not man put asunder. (Mt. 19:4-6)

Conclusion

God created human beings (Gen. 1:26-27), and He knows what is best for them, even in marriage. Husbands and wives must realize the seriousness of their obligations to each other in marriage, and all who read this, whether single or married, must respect God’s word on this subject. *Æ Brian*

SFA FAMILY MATTERS

Prayer List

Our Members: Ray Naschick is in the hospital with a leg infection. Ginny Hamby, Wanda Bruno, Wayne Shearer, Sharon Washington, Dorothy Trice, Faith West, Jim Turner, and Margaret Coone.

Shut In Members: Carol Eason, Virginia Plumlee, Dick & Joyce Burbage and Cheryl Barker.

Others: Wayne Shearer's parents, Paulisky Irizarry, Sandra Hutchins (Becky Sheumaker's sister), Lynn Stevens, Chrissi Fuesner, Bobby Cole, Ruth Brunson, Chip Bolding, Tonya Mathis, Sam Crow, Margaret Khoury and Maureen Nichols.

Upcoming Events

Saturday Jan. 26th: Youth Group Devotional and service project at the building at 4:00 p.m. Let Hiram know if you plan to attend.

Saturday Jan. 26th: Ladies Day at the Sebring Parkway church of Christ. Registration at 8:00. Program at 9:00 a.m.

Sunday Feb 3rd: Fellowship In-Service after evening services.

Sunday Feb 10th: Elders and Deacons Meeting at 4:30 a.m.

Thursday Feb 14th: Sweetheart Dinner here at the building at 6:00 p.m.

Saturday Feb 17th: Men's Breakfast here at SFA at 8:00 a.m.

Tuesday Feb 19th: Senior Saints meeting at 10:00. Presentation by the Polk County Sheriff's office.

Placed Membership

Lou and Patti Van Allen requested to place membership with us here at South Florida Ave. Let us welcome them into our family! Their address is 3459 Shady Brook Dr., Mulberry, FL 33860.

Visitors

Steve Gibson, Butch & Arlene Carr, Larry & Martha Stewart, Keith & Cheryl Cozort, Kevin and Shirley Cozort, Warren & Elaine Sims, Scott & Kristal Markowitz and Lilly, Todd Mitchell, Will & Autumn Vann, Mac and Avery, Alex Szabo, Jerry Green, Eric Bunch and Sherman Williams.

~ Communion to Shut-ins ~

January 27th.....Parramore

We still need Volunteers!!

Sign up sheet is on the announcement bulletin board.

Watch . . .



In Search of the Lord's Way

Sundays @ 8:30 a.m. Check local listings

SCHEDULED TO SERVE

February

Bobby Sheumaker **Table** Wayne Shearer
Phil Fife..... **Assist** Ken Walker

Sunday, January 27, 2018
9:30 A.M.

Song at Bible Class..... Kyle Bingle
Prayer..... Tyler Anderson

10:30 A.M.

Announcements Wayne Shearer
Song Leader..... Jason Hendrix
Opening Prayer..... Wesley Brunson
Sermon..... Hiram Kemp
Closing Prayer..... Ken Walker
Sound Booth..... Alex Parramore

6:00 P.M.

Song Leader..... Tucker Sweeney
Opening Prayer..... David Anderson
Sermon..... Hiram Kemp
Closing Prayer..... Phil Fife
Sound Booth..... Alex Parramore
Greeters Pratt/Sweeney
Att. Cards..... Wilcutt boy's
Open & Close Building Jason Hendrix

Wednesday, January 30, 2019

Song Leader..... Paul Romine
Opening Prayer..... Wayne Shearer
Closing Prayer..... Ken Walker

Please meet in the library. If you cannot serve, please call Stacey Paulin so he can get a replacement - (863) 838-8911

Sunday, February 3, 2019
9:30 A.M.

Song at Bible Class..... Frank Hamby
Prayer Josh Estridge

10:30 A.M.

Announcements Fred Strickland
Song Leader..... Jason Hendrix
Opening Prayer..... Matt Willcut
Sermon..... Hiram Kemp
Closing Prayer..... Tim Croson
Sound Booth..... Tucker Sweeney

6:00 P.M.

Song Leader..... Kyle Williams
Opening Prayer..... Alex Parramore
Sermon..... Hiram Kemp
Closing Prayer Charles Paulin
Sound Booth..... Tucker Sweeney
Greeters Williams/Paulin
Att. Cards..... Caelen/Cam'ron
Open & Close Building Bobby Sheumaker

Wednesday, February 6, 2019

Song Leader..... Paul Romine
Opening Prayer..... Wayne Shearer
Closing Prayer..... Frank Hamby

~ HOW ARE WE GIVING ~

Dec. 30.....\$7,777.07
Jan. 06.....\$7,348.68
Jan. 13.....\$5,733.45
Jan. 20.....\$5,397.55
Contribution Average.....\$6,159.89
Weekly Budget.....\$6,524.52



New Member Spotlight
Marion Beals



Marion was born in Boston, Massachusetts and grew up in that area. As a child, she wanted to be a teacher. Her first job was baby sitting. She is currently retired and teaches an SFA ladies class and does volunteer work for the church and FSOP. One of the things she most enjoys is being a Nana to her grandchildren. In her free time, she likes to read and work crossword puzzles. Her proudest accomplishment is her family. The best advice she's been given is "Seek the truth." She and her husband, George, have 1 daughter & 2 grandsons. Welcome, Marion!



Member Spotlight
Kyle Bingle



Kyle was born in Lakeland and has lived here his entire life. As a child he wanted to be a pro baseball or football player. His first job was in construction. He currently works for Chick-fil-a as a "back of house" cook. He has been on mission trips to Costa Rica, Nicaragua, and Panama. When he has free time, he enjoys fishing, playing sports, or just being with friends. His favorite drink is Mountain Dew. His favorite book is the Bible. He is a good softball player. His proudest accomplishment is being baptized. Thanks, Kyle, for your example and inspiration!



South Florida Avenue
CHURCH OF CHRIST
 1807 South Florida Avenue
 Lakeland, FL 33803-2653

Return Service Requested

The End of Your Search for a Friendly Church . . .

Great FSOP Lectureship So Far!



Still Time To Hear More Great Lessons!

Make Plans Now To Attend

Feb. 22-24, 2019



God's Plan of Salvation

- Hear God's word (Rom. 10:17; 2 Tim. 3:16-17)**
- Believe in Jesus as God's Son (Jn. 8:24)**
- Repent of Past Sins (Lk. 13:3, 5; Acts 17:30-31)**
- Confess Faith in Jesus Christ (Rom. 10:9-10)**
- Be Baptized for Forgiveness of Sins (Acts 2:38)**
- Live Faithfully by God's Word (Rom. 12:1-2)**