

## GOSPEL of Grace FELLOWSHIP

### 1 Corinthians 7:1-7

#### God's Design for Marriage

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### A Corinthian Slogan

#### 1 Corinthians 7:1 (LEB)

Now concerning the things about which you wrote: "It is good for a man not to touch a woman."

- "Now concerning" is *peri de* = topic change
- "Touch" is a euphemism for sexual relations
- Church history is filled with errors based on misunderstanding Paul's teaching here
- Their slogan is not what Paul taught

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### The Sanctity of Marriage

#### 1 Corinthians 7:2 (LEB)

But because of sexual immorality, let each man have his own wife and let each woman have her own husband.

- Marriage is good: Genesis 2:18, 24-25
- There are two imperatives: "have" applied to the husband and wife (i.e., relations)
- This Christian teaching is antithetical to the beliefs and practices of pagan Corinth

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### Marriage in Genesis

#### Genesis 2:18 (ESV)

Then the LORD God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him."

#### Genesis 2:24-25 (ESV)

Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.

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### Implications of Genesis 2:24

#### 1 Corinthians 7:3-4 (LEB)

The husband must fulfill his obligation to his wife, and likewise also the wife to her husband. The wife does not have authority over her own body, but her husband does. And likewise also the husband does not have authority over his own body, but his wife does.

- This guards against asceticism
- This is in contrast to most cultures

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### Do Not Help the Tempter

#### 1 Corinthians 7:5 (NASB)

Stop depriving one another, except by agreement for a time, so that you may devote yourselves to prayer, and come together again so that Satan will not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.

- The pagan culture of Paul's day and ours creates pressure against godly marriage
- Immorality (*porneia*) lurks to destroy

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## Temporary Abstinence Is a Concession

### 1 Corinthians 7:6-7 (LEB)

But I say this as a concession, not as a command. I wish all people could be like myself, but each one has his own gift from God, one in this way and another in that way.

- Church history has twisted Paul's statements to promote what Paul rejected
- Marriage is not less "spiritual"

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## Implications and Applications

- We must not allow human traditions to set aside God's revealed purposes
- True spirituality is found through trusting Christ, not ascetic practices

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## Human Traditions

### Colossians 2:8 (ESV)

See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ.

- Pagan culture is dominated by a wicked philosophy from spirits of darkness
- This wicked system takes captives through deceit and strong seduction

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## Asceticism Deceives

### Colossians 2:20-22 (ESV)

If with Christ you died to the elemental spirits of the world, why, as if you were still alive in the world, do you submit to regulations—"Do not handle, Do not taste, Do not touch" (referring to things that all perish as they are used)—according to human precepts and teachings?

- The *stoicheia* promote license and legalism
- The pagan culture has both

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## Appearance Is Not Reality

### Colossians 2:23 (ESV)

These have indeed an appearance of wisdom in promoting self-made religion and asceticism and severity to the body, but they are of no value in stopping the indulgence of the flesh.

- Every form of deceptive practice has been promoted in the name of Christianity
- God's gifts are always compatible with true sanctification

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## The Sufficiency of Christ

### Colossians 2:6-7 (ESV)

Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

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