

The Blessed Mess: Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians

Sermon Notes

Safe Sex (1 Corinthians 7:1-9)

Safe Sex for Marrieds

“Now concerning the things about which you wrote, it is good for a man not to touch a woman. But because of immoralities, each man is to have his own wife, and each woman is to have her own husband. The husband must fulfill his duty to his wife, and likewise also the wife to her husband. The wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband does; and likewise also the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife does. 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.” – 1 Cor. 7:1-5

Safe Sex for Singles

“But this I say by way of concession, not of command. Yet I wish that all men were even as I myself am. However, each man has his own gift from God, one in this manner, and another in that. But I say to the unmarried and to widows that it is good for them if they remain even as I. But if they do not have self-control, let them marry; for it is better to marry than to burn with passion. – 1 Cor. 7:6-9

For Further Thought and Discussion

Getting Started

1. What was helpful to you in this week's sermon? What didn't you understand?
2. What are the biggest differences between the way the Bible treats sex and the way our culture treats sex?

Going Deeper

3. Please read 1 Cor. 7:1-5. In this section of 1 Corinthians, Paul begins to answer a list of questions he received from the Corinthians. What seems to be their first question? Why would they ask this question?
4. How does Paul answer the Corinthians' question? How would Paul's answer be revolutionary in the First Century? How is it revolutionary today?
5. Please read 1 Cor. 7:6-9. Paul makes it clear that while God created marriage to be a

blessing, Paul doesn't want to give the impression that it is God's will for each person to be married. Using this passage, how would you counsel someone who was trying to decide whether to wed?

Application

What is one thing you will apply from this discussion?