

Counseling Christians Through Sexual Sin

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We'll do three things in our time today.

- Offer a few thoughts on the apostle Paul and 1 Cor 7:1–9
- Draw out four principles from this text
- Apply these principles to our counseling

Let's start by walking through 1 Corinthians 7:1–9.

¹Now concerning the matters about which you wrote: "It is good for a man not to have sexual relations with a woman." ²But because of the temptation to sexual immorality, each man should have his own wife and each woman her own husband. ³The husband should give to his wife her conjugal rights, and likewise the wife to her husband. ⁴For the wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband does. Likewise the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife does. ⁵Do not deprive one another, except perhaps by agreement for a limited time, that you may devote yourselves to prayer; but then come together again, so that Satan may not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.

⁶Now as a concession, not a command, I say this. ⁷I wish that all were as I myself am. But each has his own gift from God, one of one kind and one of another.

⁸To the unmarried and the widows I say that it is good for them to remain single, as I am. ⁹But if they cannot exercise self-control, they should marry. For it is better to marry than to burn with passion. (ESV)

Notes on 1 Cor 7:1–9

Four Principles from 1 Corinthians 7:1–9

1. The *exclusivity* of marital sex (1 Cor. 7:1–2)
2. The importance of *regular* marital sex (1 Cor. 7:5)
3. *Mutuality* in marital sex (1 Cor. 7:3–4)
4. Marital sex as *protection* and *preservation* (1 Cor. 7:5b, 9)

Application: Sexual Sin and Our Response in Counseling

1. Premarital sex for engaged couples
2. A sexless marriage
3. Adultery
4. Pornography