

“Home Improvement Projects, Part 1”

Sunday, July 28, 2024, 10:30 a.m.

Whitneyville Bible Church, Alto, MI

Pastor Jonathan DeCou

1 Corinthians 7:1-24

BIG IDEA: Authentic Christian marriages can be successful & satisfying.

*“A man who finds a wife finds a good thing
and obtains favor from the LORD.”*

Proverbs 18:22 (CSB)



Wisdom for believers married to believers. (v1-11)

- **Apply these principles for marriage.** (v1-7)
 - **My sexuality reflects my relationship with God.**
 - **I must put the needs of my spouse ahead of my own.** (v2-3, 5-7)
 - **As a married spouse, I acknowledge I am not my own.** (v4)
- **Apply these protections for marriage.** (v8-11)
 - **Honestly recognize being single has benefits and challenges.** (v8-9)
 - **Divorce is always a last resort.** (v10-11)



Wisdom for believers married to unbelievers. (v12-24)

- **Believers should not seek a divorce.** (v12-13)
- **Believers bring a spiritual blessing to their home.** (v14)

- **Believers should seek to pursue peace and reconciliation.** (v15-16)
- **Believers should not generally seek a “change”.** (v14)

BIG IDEA: Authentic Christian marriages can be successful & satisfying.

READ: 1 Corinthians 7:1-24 & read Ephesians 5:12-23

THINK: Reflect on your marital status, and then ask yourself these questions: *If married, tell us a bit about how you & your spouse met & how you knew this was “the one”. If not married, is that status more because of your current life situation or a conviction? Whereas 1 Corinthians 6:12-20 dealt with sexual promiscuity, here in 7:1 Paul quotes a group that advocated for sexual abstinence, possibly even within marriage. How might this relate to the problems in 6:12-20? What reasons does Paul give for rejecting absolute abstinence (v2-5,9)? What is the underlying principle about sex in marriage from v3-5? What were some of the married people in Corinth concluding as a result of the false notion of 7:1 (v10-14)? How does Paul deal with their erroneous conclusions? What principles does Paul give for Christians who wonder what to do in mixed marriages where the non-believing spouse is unhappy (v15-16)? What evidences do you see here that the Corinthians were making radical, chaotic changes in their lifestyle because of their new faith (v10, 18-22) Consequently, what is Paul’s general rule in v17, 20 & 24?*

DO: How has your marital status (single or married) helped you to serve Christ more effectively? How has it hindered your service?