



1 Corinthians
MARITAL RELATIONSHIPS
1 Corinthians 7
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CONTEXT

Paul is not offering a “general treatise” on marriage in 1 Corinthians 7. He is addressing specific difficulties experienced in Corinth, reflected in the letter sent to him.

PASTORAL CONTEXT

This section reveals the pastoral advice from Paul as he delicately addresses the challenges faced by the Corinthian Christians.

ESCHATOLOGY

Paul’s perspective is influenced by his eschatology.

ERRORS AND PRESSURES

The Corinthians were exhibiting two core errors connected to the pressures of the day in 1st Century Corinth:

- Licentiousness – “everything is permissible”
- Asceticism – over-emphasis on spiritual vs. physical

THEOLOGICAL AND ETHICAL PERSPECTIVE

Paul upholds a high view of marriage.

OUTLINE OF 1 CORINTHIANS 7

- Intimacy within the bonds of marriage (7:1-5)
- The unmarried and widows (7:6-9)
- Divorce (7:10-16)
- Remain as you are! (7:17-24)
- Marriage for betrothed and widows (7:25-40)