

## Sex is never “just sex”

1 Cor. 7:1-9; 32-38

### Common Cultural Views of Sex as “Just Sex”

- Casual Sexuality, “hooking up” – sex is not spiritual (*Gnosticism*)
- Sex is Bad – it is contrary to spirituality (*Asceticism*)  
(Both these views undervalue or devalue sex)

### The Question in Corinth: Isn’t it better just not to be sexual (to touch a woman)?

#### The Answer:

*To those with the gift of singleness (7:7)*

*To those with the gift of marriage (7:7)*

### Biblical Sexuality (Hebrew, holistic view):

- **Sex is good; it is God’s creation, not a product of culture. (Gen. 1:28; Heb. 13:4)**
- **Paul is not anti-marriage (1 Tim. 4:3; Eph. 5; 7:32-25)**
- **Reasons for Marriage:**
  - 1. Companionship (Gen. 2:18; Prov. 2:17; Mal. 2:14)
  - 2. A Place for Godly Sexual Expression (Prov. 5:15-19; 1 Thes. 4:3-5)
  - 3. Procreation – “Godly offspring” (Mal. 2:15)
- **Principles of Sex in Marriage**
  - Sex is an essential part of marriage. (7:2b)
  - Sexual relations are to be a regular (frequent) part of the relationship. (7:2b)
  - Both partners have “sexual rights.” Sex is based on equal rights. (7:4-5a; cf. Ex. 21:10)
  - Sex is to be other-oriented, fulfillment oriented. (7:3)
  - Satisfying sexuality is a preventative (a dam) for immorality. (7:2)
  - Abstaining temporarily from sex for the right reasons is an option. (7:5b-6)
    - Right reasons to abstain:
    - Wrong reasons to abstain:
  - The Effects of Sexual Anorexia in Marriage
    - For the Husband
    - For the Wife