



Community Group

Study Guide

04.03.2011

1 Corinthians 7:1-24

Outline:

- I. Sex within marriage (1-9)
 - A. Marriage is God's designed place for the sex drive (1-2)
 - B. Marriage is a mutual giving of self (3-4)
 - C. We solve conflict by prayer (5-6)
 - D. Celibacy is a divine calling (7-9)
- II. Disconnect within Marriage (10-16)
 - A. Marriage is sacred (10-11)
 - B. What about divorce and remarriage? (12-16)
- III. Contentment (17-24)

Discussion:

1. Read v. 1-9. In Song of Solomon, romance is celebrated, whereas in this passage the issue of duties arises. How can marriage seem like a duty at times? What do you think of verse 4? How can we be more intentional about serving our spouses?
2. Discuss the triangle concept (*As each of us grows closer to God, we grow closer to each other*). Have you been able to pray through conflict? Explain/Discuss.
3. Read v. 10-16 and Matthew 19:1-9. What are some of God's principles on the sanctity of marriage? See how forgiveness and reconciliation are always God's first choice. Discuss. What does Matthew 19:9 give as an exception? Do you think the exception clause, *porneia*, means idolatry (Neh. 13:23-31), viewing pornography or the physical act of sex? Can you identify what some of the heart issues are?
4. Read v. 17-24. What does the passage mean when it says to "remain" in a certain condition? Do you ever struggle with contentment? See also 1 Timothy 6:6. How can contentment be great gain?