

Sermon Notes

The Beautiful Mess of Marriage
1 Cor. 7:1-16

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January 7, 2018

Big Idea: Marriage becomes less messy when we practice it according to God's design.

Four Messy Marriage Questions

1. Should sex be a part of married life? (v.1 – 7)

Context: Asceticism

Sex is part of God's Design for Marriage

- Regular sex helps married people stay sexually pure.
- Married comes with the mutual responsibility to serve one another in the realm of sexuality.
- Marriage & Sex are good things, but not ultimate goods.

2. If I am widowed should I get remarried? (v. 8-9)

Remarriage is a healthy thing for those that have the desire.

3. As a Christian, is it acceptable to divorce my spouse?

Marriage is designed to be a lifelong commitment.

4. What do I do if I'm married to someone who isn't yet a Christian?

Christians are to be a sanctifying presence in marriages of mixed spirituality.

One should not purposely enter into one of those.

Questions for Reflection/Discussion:

As always feel free to tweak, skip, or add questions to focus on areas you think most relevant to your group.

1. To what degree were the positive aspects of sex talked about in your church or your home as you grew up?
2. Are there any aspects of sex that you would prefer to have taught on more in the church?
3. What are some of the benefits of having sex be a regular part of a marriage?
4. How does it change sex to think of it as an opportunity to serve your spouse?
5. What are some signs that you may have turned sex into an ultimate thing? What's the danger in that?
6. What are some strategies you have found helpful to divorce proof your marriage?
7. How can we show love and grace to those who have been divorced while also holding a high view of marriage?
8. How have you seen the faith of your spouse affect your own relationship with God?
9. What do you think God wants us to marry someone within the faith? What makes is such a big deal?
10. Were you ever in a relationship with someone outside of the faith? How did it affect your own faith?