

Theme: Sex Is Sacred

“Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ himself? Shall I then take the members of Christ and unite them with a prostitute? Never!” ... each man should have sexual relations with his own wife, and each woman with her own husband. The husband should fulfill his marital duty to his wife, and likewise the wife to her husband.” (1 Cor 6:15, 7:2-3)

First-century Greco-Roman culture knew few limits on sexual activity. Prostitution, homosexuality, and pederasty were all commonplace, even advocated by some contemporary philosophers and ethicists. At the same time, some philosophical or religious groups advocated celibacy. So new converts to Christ needed immediate and explicit instruction in biblical sexuality. The church in Corinth had converts from both excesses. Some considered that sexual drive was simply another bodily appetite, to be satisfied whenever it arose, by whatever means convenient, including with prostitutes. The apostle Paul insists that sex is sacred. Our bodies belong to the Lord, and sex conjoins the participants. So for a Christian to have sex with a prostitute is to unite Christ with a prostitute. Other converts in Corinth advocated total abstinence from sex, like angels. Celibacy, Paul insists, is not a higher form of spirituality. To the contrary, it more likely leads to immorality. Consequently, he encourages marriage, and insists that the married maintain an active sex life.

REFLECTION

- Does your concept of spirituality incorporate a healthy perspective on sex: as sacred rather than sinful, and healthy rather than compulsive?

RENEW

- Do you confine your sexual activity to the boundaries of marriage?
- Do you regularly engage in sex within marriage, directed not just by your own sex drive, but also your spouse's desires?

PRAYER REQUESTS

- Pray for faithfulness to your spouse throughout your entire life.
- Pray for a mutually enjoyable and enriching sex life with your spouse.