



# All Christians' Fellowship International

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## *Study to show "The Way of True Life." Bible Study Outline*

TOPIC:       **God's Design for Sex in Marriage**  
TEXT:       **1 Corinthians 7:1-11**

**Instructions:** - *Let the above passages be read each time you come together to study this topic so that everyone can participate fully. The teacher should provide additional background information on the topic and come up with follow-up questions. Participants should be brief in their responses and use relevant Bible references to illustrate their points. They should be careful not to dominate the discussion to allow everyone equal opportunity to participate.*

**Introduction:** Blaring messages about sex invade our daily lives thanks to the media. In a culture where moral values are often ignored, it can be difficult to view sex as part of God's good creation. The Corinthians lived in a sex-saturated society. Their city was notorious for the immorality associated with the temple of Aphrodite, the goddess of love. They had written Paul with some questions. Should Christians completely abstain from sex? Was abstinence the answer to immorality? Paul answers their questions by giving guidelines for the healthy role of sex in marriage. Read 1 Corinthians 7:1-11.

### **Discussion Questions:**

1. Reflect on the fact that God declared everything he had made, including sex, to be very good (Genesis 1:31). In what you see and hear in music, magazines, TV, and conversations. What messages about sex are you getting daily? Discuss.
2. In response to the immorality around them, the Corinthians wrote to ask whether it is good for Christians to be married. What are the main points of Paul's answer?
3. The apostle gives the same standards and principles about sex to both husbands and wives. How does this compare to our culture's ideas or what you thought the Bible taught?
4. What are the responsibilities and benefits of sexual relationships for both husbands and wives (vs. 2-4)? Why may either spouse initiate sex?
5. Why do you think Paul emphasizes or highlights the responsibilities of husbands and wives rather than their rights?
6. Why might a couple refrain from sexual intercourse (v. 5)? Discuss the cautions Paul gives to those who do refrain.
7. How does this passage speak against using sex as a reward or withholding sex as punishment for one's spouse? Discuss.

8. Why are marriage and singleness acceptable to God (vs. 7-9)? Discuss.
9. In a fallen world, conflicts and barriers do come between spouses. Paul recognizes the temptation to separate. What options are open to couples with marital problems (vs. 10-11)?
10. How can seeking counsel from a mature Christian couple or Christian counselor facilitate reconciliation and prevent separation?
11. In studies 4 and 5, we looked at the principle of mutual submission in Ephesians 5:21. How are the principles of sexual responsibilities given here as a practical application of mutual submission?
12. How appropriate is it for a spouse to discuss their joys and/or frustrations about their sexual relationship? Discuss.