

Defraud Not One Another

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1 Cor 7:1-5 Now concerning the things whereof ye wrote unto me: It is good for a man not to touch a woman. Nevertheless, to avoid fornication, let every man have his own wife, and let every woman have her own husband. Let the husband render unto the wife due benevolence: and likewise also the wife unto the husband. The wife hath not power of her own body, but the husband: and likewise also the husband hath not power of his own body, but the wife. Defraud ye not one the other, except it be with consent for a time, that ye may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again, that Satan tempt you not for your incontinency.

- I. Let's get it straight here to begin with ...
 - A. He does not say, "It is not good for a man to touch a woman."
 - B. He says, "It IS good for a man NOT to touch a woman."
 - C. There is a difference there because the issue is fornication and unfaithfulness to the marriage relationship.
 - D. These people were really in a mess with their confusion and false, polluted ideas about the relationship between men and women
 - E. Therefore, they were also very confused and messed up in their ideas of marriage and the relationship between husband and wife.
 - F. The confusion and pollution came from their pagan background and influence and also from the legalistic Jews that were trying to influence them.
 1. Celibacy and fornication are both pagan ideas.
 2. God made the woman FOR man, and he made the woman, not to be subdued and miserable, but that the man would be the greatest joy and fulfillment of her life.

1 Corinthians 11:9 Neither was the man created for the woman; but the woman for the man.

3. God made man and woman to love each other and the proper union of the two to make life complete for each of them.
- II. Since God made man and He created man male and female He designed each so there would be a strong natural attraction between them.
 - A. Since sin entered into the world this matter has become the greatest single cause of sin and stumbling.
 - B. Most people are far too simple minded in this matter.
 1. Much of the time they are simple minded about it on purpose because they want to excuse their indulgence in lustful thoughts and activities.
 2. Women who have no understanding are of the mind that a man is wicked for having that natural desire and that the way women dress and behave have no part in it at all.
 3. Therefore, both men and women play with fire in this matter – thus the warning about touching.
 4. Looking is one thing and it is very dangerous, but touching takes it to another level of extreme danger.
 5. The old saying about "sparking" has more truth in its meaning than most people think about.

- C. Men and women who are not close kin or physically repulsive to one another cannot be close friends.
 - 1. There is way too much danger of them getting into trouble with each other.
- D. It is not good for men and women to work together on a job or in any situation where they are together a lot.
- E. This is no strange new idea – everyone used to regard this issue and recognize the danger.
 - 1. Because people used to care about adultery, fornication, and all that goes with it and realized the awful consequences it brings.
 - 2. But now our society is so corrupt with these sins, and it seems that everybody is doing it, so all the guards are down and anyone who now says things that everyone used to understand is considered a fool.
 - 3. The idea that “this is just the world we live in now, and so you might as well get used to it” will not fly. Someone MUST speak up and cry out against the sins of our day.

III. Let every man have his own wife, and let every wife have her own husband.

- A. To have speaks of possession.
 - 1. Each belongs to the other – they are not their own, and this should be the state of mind about the matter in both of them.
 - 2. It should also be the state of mind of anyone else looking on – no one has a right to either of them, they belong to one another; they are off the market.
- B. To have speaks of need.
 - 1. Each needs the other and anyone going into marriage should understand this clearly and accept it as part of the marriage covenant.
- C. To have speaks of the completeness of life in each other.
 - 1. All the needs of love and intimacy are met in this relationship.
 - 2. Therefore there is no place for anyone else to become involved in these matters.

Colossians 2:10 And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power:

- 3. There should be no NEED for other people in this relationship: friends, counselors, etc.
- 4. Any of these will almost always cause trouble in the relationship.
- 5. The reason is that they are perceived as a potential threat and rightly so.

IV. Let the husband render unto the wife due benevolence: and likewise also the wife unto the husband. (v. 3)

- A. Benevolence is the desire to promote the happiness and wellbeing of another.
- B. Marriage is a way to make someone else happy – not yourself.
 - 1. Since God is the author of this arrangement it makes everyone happy when it is done His way and after His design.
- C. The benevolence DUE is quite high in marriage, since the other has given themselves to you entirely; they deserve more than being taken for granted and just occasional token appreciation.
- D. Benevolence is the disposition to do good, be charitable, be kind toward.

Prov 31:12 She will do him good and not evil all the days of her life.

Ephesians 4:32 And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

1. This verse is not just for the church, but for all relationships – especially marriage.
- V. The wife hath not power of her own body, but the husband: and likewise also the husband hath not power of his own body, but the wife. (v. 4)
- A. Benevolence should be the rule here, also – it is about GIVING – not GETTING.
 - B. Husband and wife do not have power of their own bodies in this relationship ...
 1. To use them for their selfish pleasure, but as a gift to give to their spouse.
 - C. When it is this way everyone is completely satisfied and there is no need of spoil.
 1. Therefore, the danger of fornication is diminished very much.
 - D. However, when the marriage relationship and home are not in order according to God's ways, adultery and fornication are always a real danger and possibility.
 1. Every couple must realize how true and real this fact is.
- VI. Defraud ye not one the other, except it be with consent for a time, that ye may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again, that Satan tempt you not for your incontinency. (v. 5)
- A. The need of a man and woman for each other is so great that even while involved in prayer and fasting fornication is a danger to be reckoned with.
 - B. This should teach us the gravity of the danger of this sin.
 - C. Defraud means to deprive of right; to withhold wrongfully from another what is due to them.
 - D. The husband or the wife should neither one become so spiritual that they neglect the needs of their spouse.
 1. This is not the will of God in this matter – according to the Scripture we have just read.
 2. If either becomes so high-minded in spiritual matters that they defraud their spouse and make their home vulnerable to temptation and fornication they are deceived in their mind and heart and are not spiritual at all.
 - E. This is speaking of more than physical relations between husband and wife.
 1. The needs are much more than that alone.
 2. The need for undivided attention.
 3. The need for love and assurance that you still own the heart of the other.
 4. The need for friendship and companionship with your most intimate friend in this life.
 5. The need to know that they think of you and care for your needs and problems.
 - F. So husband and wife should show due benevolence and not defraud each other.
 1. This is the making of a happy home and happy children and a happy life, which leads to a happy eternity.