

***“God’s Way Is The Best Way!”***  
***1 Corinthians 7:10-16***

**Introduction:**

1. We Are Going To Head Back To 1 Corinthians 7 This Morning!
  - Where God Is Dealing With Some Very Practical Issues!
    - Not Just For The Church In Corinth!
    - But For Our Church Also!
  - 2 Timothy 3:16 - “All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable!”
  - And The Issue We Are Looking At:
    - Is Marriage!
2. We Began 1 Corinthians 7:
  - By Looking At God’s Plan For:
    - Single Living – For Those Who Are Unmarried!
      - God Has A Special Plan / Purpose For Christians Who Are Single!
  - But We Also Looked At God’s Plan For:
    - Married Living!
      - And God Has A Special Plan / Purpose For Christians Who Are Married As Well!
      - And God Showed Us How Married Living Is Supposed To Work!
        - How He Designed It To Be!
        - Security / Service / Selflessness / Spiritual
3. This Morning - We Are Going To Keep Looking At God’s Plan For Married Living!
  - Especially When Things Are Not Working Like They Are Supposed To In Marriage!
    - And In This Fallen / Sinful World & Because We Are Dealing With Fallen / Sinful People, Marriage Frequently Does Not Work The Way God Designed!
    - According To Barna Research Group - Around 25% Of Evangelical Christians Have Been Divorced At Some Point In Their Lives! (3/31/08)
  - But This Does Not Mean That God Doesn’t Still Have A Special Plan For Marriage!
    - Even Though We May Ignore His Plan For Marriage!
    - Even Though We May Mess Up His Plan For Marriage!
    - God Is Still Gracious To Show Us His Special Plan & Purpose For Marriage!
4. What We Need To Remember About Marriage Today:
  - Is That “God’s Way Is The Best Way!”
    - This Is The Title Of A Very Simple Children’s Song That We Teach The Kids At The Good News Clubs!
    - It Is When We Forget / Forsake God’s Way:
    - That Things Go Wrong In Marriage!
    - There Are Many Examples In The Bible Of:
      - Problems When A Man Marries More Than 1 Wife!
      - Problems When There Is Unfaithfulness In Marriage!
  - Remember: “God’s Way Is The Best Way – For Marriage!”
    - Read 1 Corinthians 7:10-16!
5. If You Want To Do Marriage God’s Way:
  - Even When There Are Problems!
  - Need To Focus On 4 Things In Marriage!

**1. *Focus On Your Faithfulness In Marriage!***

- 7:10-11 - “And unto the married I command, yet not I, but the Lord, Let not the wife depart from her husband: / But and if she depart, let her remain unmarried, or be reconciled to her husband: and let not the husband put away his wife!”
  - When Marriage Is Done God’s Way:
    - It Can / Should Be A Delight!
    - Especially When Both The Husband & The Wife Are Christians!
  - And So To Begin Here - Paul Is Talking To Christians!
    - Even When There Are Problems In Your Marriage, You Need To Remain Faithful!
- Be Faithful To The Lord’s Word!
  - About Marriage!
  - “And Unto The Married I Command, Yet Not I, But The Lord!”
  - Here, Paul Is Reminding Us Of What Jesus Himself Taught & Commanded About Marriage When He Was Here On The Earth! Found In Matthew, Mark & Luke!
    - Marriage Is So Important, That Jesus Did Deal With It During His Ministry!
    - And We, As Christian Husbands & Wives, Need To Be Faithful To His Word!
  - Matthew 19:3-6 - “The Pharisees also came unto him, tempting him, and saying unto him, Is it lawful for a man to

put away his wife for every cause? / 4 And he answered and said unto them, Have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female, / 5 And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh? / 6 Wherefore they are no more twain, but *one flesh*. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man *put asunder!*”

- God’s Design For Marriage - One Flesh!
- God’s Design For Marriage - No Divorce!
- In 19:9, He Does Give 1 & Only 1 Exception For Separation / Divorce, And That Is Adultery!
- But The Lord Says – Even When There Is A Problem In Your Marriage – Divorce Is Not An Option For Christians!
  - And This Is What Paul Repeats:
- Be Faithful To The Lord’s Will! Both Wives & Husbands!
  - 7:10 - “Let Not The Wife Depart From Her Husband!”
  - 7:11b - “And Let Not The Husband Put Away His Wife!”
  - If You Are Married – Remain United In Marriage!
    - Do Not Separate! Do Not Divorce!
    - Remember That You Are “One Flesh!”
  - A Christian Is Not To Initiate / Take An Active Role In Divorce – Unless Adultery Has Taken Place!
    - And Even Then - Divorce Is Not The First Or Best Option!
  - But What Happens If You Do? What Happens If You Are?
    - We Can Thank The Lord That He Works In Our Lives Even When They Are A Mess!
    - And He Still Has A Plan!
- Be Faithful To The Lord’s Wisdom!
  - Remember Isaiah 55:9 - “For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts!”
    - We Need To Listen To God’s Wisdom!
  - Here Is What You Are To Do If You Are Divorced From Another Christian!
  - 7:11a - “But And If She Depart, Let Her Remain Unmarried, Or Be Reconciled To Her Husband!”
  - If Christians Divorce, For Reasons Other Than Adultery, They Have Two Options Biblically:
    - Remain Or Reconcile!
    - Remain Single - You Must Not Remarry!
    - Or Reconcile With Your Spouse! This Is / Ought To Be A Christian’s Goal! For Life!
  - And You Will Do This / Pursue This:
    - When You Remember What God Himself Did To Reconcile You To Him!
- Remember - When It Comes To Marriage:
  - God’s Way Is The Best Way!
  - And If You Want What’s Best – Focus On Faithfulness In Marriage!

## 2. ***Focus On Your Fellowship In Marriage!***

- 7:12-13 - “But to the rest speak I, not the Lord!”
  - All Paul Means Here, Is That What He Is About To Teach Us Is Not Something Jesus Specifically Dealt With During His Time On Earth! But This Is Still Scripture & Is Still To Be Obeyed!
- 7:12-13 - “If any brother hath a wife that believeth not, and she be pleased to dwell with him, let him not put her away. / And the woman which hath an husband that believeth not, and if he be pleased to dwell with her, let her not leave him!”
  - So What Happens When A Christian Is Married To An Unbeliever?
  - Remember That God Made Marriage To Be Good!
    - Even For Unbelievers!
    - And You Still Need To ***Focus On Fellowship!***
- Focus On Fellowship – When There Is Difficulty!
  - 7:12 - “If Any Brother Hath A Wife That Believeth Not!”
  - 7:13 - “And The Woman Which Hath An Husband That Believeth Not!”
    - Again - This Applies To Both Husbands & Wives Who Are In This Situation!
  - And This Situation Can Be Very Difficult!
    - But That Person Is Still Your Husband / Wife!
    - Your Spouse Has A Special Place In Your Life!
    - Your Spouse Has A Special Purpose As Well!
  - You Need To Focus On The Fellowship God Has Given You With Your Spouse!
    - And Fulfill Your Role / Responsibility As A Godly Husband Or Wife!
    - 1 Peter 3:1 - “Likewise, ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands; that, if any obey not the word, they also may without the word be won by the conversation of the wives!”
- Focus On Fellowship – When There Is Desire!
  - By Your Unsaved Spouse!

- If They “Be Pleased To Dwell With” You:
  - Then Be Content With & Faithful To Them!
  - You Are Still Married / “One Flesh” In God’s Eyes!
- Sometimes One Spouse Believes & Gets Saved!
  - And The Other Spouse Does Not!
  - And It Can Create Some Major Conflict!
- Other Times, The Unsaved Spouse:
  - Continues To Love The Christian!
  - And Chooses To Live With The Christian!
- God Says - Stay With / Stick With Your Spouse, Christian!
  - 7:12 - “Let Him Not Put Her Away!”
  - 7:13 - “Let Her Not Leave Him!”
  - No Separation! No Divorce! Remain In Fellowship As Husband & Wife!
- **IE:** Several Years Ago - I Went To The Funeral Of A Christian Woman Who Remained Faithfully Married To An Unbelieving Husband - Who Did Not Want Anything To Do With Jesus - Continued To Love Her / Chose To Live With Her / Was Kind To & Provided For Her - His Dying Wish Was To Have Absolutely No Christian / Spiritual Overtones At His Funeral - Only Song Played Was A College Fight Song - She Honored Him & His Wish Even At His Death - How Difficult It Must Have Been! But She Remained In Fellowship With Her Husband To The Very End! And That Woman Glorified God In An Incredible Way!
- Remember - When It Comes To Marriage:
  - God’s Way Is The Best Way!
  - And If You Want What’s Best – Focus On Fellowship In Marriage! Even When It Is Difficult!

### 3. ***Focus On Your Favor In Marriage!***

- 7:14 - “For the unbelieving husband is sanctified by the wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified by the husband: else were your children unclean; but now are they holy!”
  - If You Are A Christian Or You Know A Christian Who Is Married To An Unbeliever:
    - There Are Some Great Reasons To Stay With / Stick With Your Spouse!
  - Your Marriage Is Special!
    - Not Just To You! But To God Himself!
- There Is A Special Blessing In Marriage!
  - Even To An Unbelieving Spouse!
  - “For The Unbelieving Husband Is Sanctified By The Wife, And The Unbelieving Wife Is Sanctified By The Husband!”
    - “Sanctify” - Here Does Not Mean That The Unbelieving Spouse Is Saved / Right With God Because Of Being Married To A Christian!
      - They Are Still Called “Unbelieving!”
    - So “Sanctify” Has To Take On Another One Of It’s Biblical Meanings!
      - To Be Set Apart / Separated / Special To God!
  - The Blessing & Benefits That God Pours Out On His People In A Special & Abundant Way:
    - Is, In Some Way, Sprinkled On The Unbelieving Spouse!
    - **IE:** Like When You Water Your Plants / Flowers, Not Intentionally Watering The Weeds - But They Too Get The Benefit Of The Water!
  - A Christian Brings A Special Blessing To An Unbelieving Spouse!
    - Which Is Why Paul Says - Stay With Them! They Are So Much Better Off With You Than Without You!
- There Is A Special Union In Marriage!
  - How Does This Work?
  - The Unbeliever Is “Sanctified By – IN – The” Believer!
  - Remember The Kind Of Union There Is Between A Husband & A Wife?
    - Genesis 2:24 - “One Flesh!”
    - There Is A Physical Union That Every Husband & Wife Has!
    - So, If God Bless The Christian – Then The Non-Christian Is Blessed As Well!
    - And This Is Just Another Way For A Christian To Serve Their Unsaved Husband Or Wife!
  - But This Reminds Us Of The Kind Of Union There Is Between A Christian & Jesus Christ!
    - 6:17 - “But he that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit.!”
    - There Is A Spiritual Union That Every Christian Has With Jesus!
    - And Whatever Blessing Jesus Receives From The Father, We Share In That Blessing As Well!
    - This Is Just Another Way That Jesus Serves Us!
- There Is A Special Purpose In Marriage!
  - “Else Were Your Children Unclean; But Now Are They Holy!”
  - The Same Thing Happens To Your Children!

- They Will Receive Many Benefits & Blessings If Even One Of Their Parents Is A Christian!
- Like Another Preacher Once Said:
  - "It Only Takes 1 Christian To Make A Christian Family!"
- And You Can Bring Great Blessing On Your Children As Well!
  - But, Even Though Your Spouse & Your Children May Be Blessed – It Does Not Mean That They Are Safe! They Still Need To Trust In The Lord Jesus!
- Remember - When It Comes To Marriage:
  - God's Way Is The Best Way!
  - And If You Want What's Best – Focus On Your Favor In Marriage!
    - You Are There To Be A Blessing & To Bring God's Blessing Upon Your Family!

#### **4. Focus On Your Father!**

- But If You Are A Christian Or Know A Christian Who Is Married To A Non-Christian:
  - What Happens When It That Marriage Still Goes Bad!
- 7:15-16 - "But if the unbelieving depart, let him depart. A brother or a sister is not under bondage in such cases: but God hath called us to peace. / For what knowest thou, O wife, whether thou shalt save thy husband? or how knowest thou, O man, whether thou shalt save thy wife?"
  - When A Believer Is Married To An Unbeliever:
    - There Can Still Be Problems!
      - "But If The Unbelieving Depart!"
      - And A Separation / Divorce Takes Place!
        - Not By The Christian, But By The Non-Christian!
        - And All Your Attempts At Reconciliation Have Failed! Do What You Can / Do All You Can!
      - What Do You Do? What Should You Do?
        - Don't Fret About It!
        - Don't Fight Over It!
        - Instead - "Let Him / Her Depart!"
      - And Focus On Your Heavenly Father's Care & Comfort During That Time!
    - There Can Still Be Potential!
      - "A Brother Or A Sister Is Not Under Bondage In Such Cases!"
      - When A Christian Is Divorced By Their Unbelieving Spouse, God Still Offers His People:
        - A Future! And A Freedom!
      - "Not Under Bondage!"
        - Not A Slave To Your Former Spouse!
        - Not A Slave To Your Current Condition!
      - If A Believer Has Been Abandoned By An Unbeliever, God Permits His Child To Remarry, But Only Another Christian!
      - And Focus On Your Father's Purpose For Marriage!
  - There Can Still Be Peace!
    - "But God Hath Called Us To Peace!"
    - Even Though This Is The Most Difficult Time In A Married Christian's Life – God Still Offers & Provides His Peace!
    - No Need To Fight The Separation!
      - No Need To Burn The Bridges With Your Spouse!
    - Instead, Focus On Your Father's Peace Through It All!
  - There Can Still Be A Plan!
    - And There Still Is A Plan! God Has A Plan!
    - 7:16 - "For What Knowest Thou, O Wife, Whether Thou Shalt Save Thy Husband? Or How Knowest Thou, O Man, Whether Thou Shalt Save Thy Wife?"
    - A Christian May Fret About & Even Fight Against Their Unbelieving Spouse Leaving Them:
      - Because They Are Afraid!
      - Because They Love Them!
      - Because They Want What's Best For Them!
      - Because They Want To See Them Saved!
    - But You Don't Know God's Plan!
      - You Don't Know If You Will Be God's Instrument To Save Your Spouse!
      - You Don't Know What God Can Do To Get Ahold Of Your Spouse's Heart!
    - Focus On Your Father!
      - On His Perspective! His Provision! His Plan!
- Remember - When It Comes To Marriage:
  - God's Way Is The Best Way!

- And Even When The Worst Happens In Your Marriage!
- Keep Your Focus On Your Heavenly Father!
- His Care & Concern Is Far Greater Than Yours!

**Conclusion:**

1. Are You Following After God's Way In Your Marriage?
  - Make Sure You Keep The Right Focus:
    - So That Your Marriage Remains Healthy & Strong & Glorifying To God!
    - Focus On Your Faithfulness In Marriage!
    - Focus On Your Fellowship In Marriage!
    - Focus On Your Favor In Marriage!
    - Focus On Your Heavenly Father In Marriage!
  - And If You Or Someone You Know:
    - Is Struggling In Their Marriage!
    - God Has Given You This Message To Help Them!
2. Because When It Comes To Marriage:
  - God's Way Is Always The Best Way!

***Grace Baptist Church***  
***Stephen Elmer, Pastor***  
***4245 North 200 West***  
***Greenfield, Indiana 46140***  
***317-326-2362***  
***[www.sermonaudio.com/wordofgrace](http://www.sermonaudio.com/wordofgrace)***  
***[www.growatgrace.org](http://www.growatgrace.org)***  
***[pastor-elmer@hotmail.com](mailto:pastor-elmer@hotmail.com)***