

Mar 18 – Keeping Commitments – 1 Corinthians 7

Corinth with Acrocorinth, 1847
by Carl Anton Joseph Rottmann



Apostle Paul, c. 1657
by Rembrandt van Rijn (1606-69)



**Yale University
developed a huge
walk-thru MRI**

**Camouflaged at
High Schools
in New Haven on**

Prom Night

**To see INSIDE
students as they
went to Prom**

AMAZING

**Same results
for both sexes**



**Video Deleted
from online
version**



Courting FAIL in Mayberry RFD

**Video Deleted
from online
version**



1 Corinthians

chapter

from Ephesus

- | | | | |
|-------------|--|------|------------------------------|
| 1. Mar 4 | United in Christ | 1 | No Divisions – Wisdom of God |
| 2. Mar 11 | Glorifying God | 6 | Bought with a Price |
| ☆ 3. Mar 18 | Keeping Commitments | 7 | Marriage for Life in Love |
| 5. Mar 25 | Influencing for Christ | 9-10 | All Things to All People |
| 6. Apr 1 | Easter Sunday – Sunrise Easter Service | | |
| 7. Apr 8 | Remembering the Sacrifice | 11 | Examine Oneself |
| 8. Apr 15 | Serving God's People | 12 | Gifts of Same Spirit & Lord |
| 8. Apr 22 | Understanding Love | 13 | Greatest of These Is LOVE |

2 Corinthians

chapter

from Macedonia

- | | | | |
|------------|------------------------|-------|-----------------------------|
| 9. Apr 29 | Enjoying God's Comfort | 1 | Afflicted for Your Comfort |
| 10. May 6 | Displaying the Gospel | 4 | Light Shone in Our Hearts |
| 11. May 13 | Becoming New | 5-6 | In Christ – a New Creation |
| 12. May 20 | Giving Faithfully | 9 | Ministry to the Saints |
| 13. May 27 | Finding Strength | 12-13 | When Weak, then I Am Strong |



Theme

**Believers honor God by keeping their vows
related to marriage and purity.**

7:1-7 Marriage & Intimacy – Don't Deprive One Another

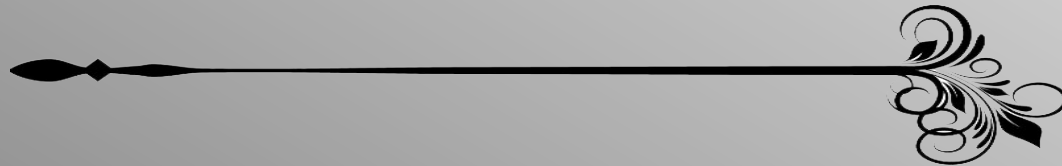
7:8-9 Marriage & Singleness – Stay Single, if No Control

7:10-16 Marriage & Divorce – Stay Married

7:17-24 Remain as Called

7:25-38 Regarding Virgins & Engagement

7:39-40 Widows & Remarriage



Key Verse – 1 Corinthians 7:7

**I wish that all of you
were as I am**



Apostle Paul, c. 1657
Rembrandt van Rijn (1606-69)c



Alternate Title

Married Sex in the City



Alternate Title #2

In the Heat of the Night



Outline of 1 Corinthians

You're HERE

- | | |
|--|------------|
| I. Greetings & Thanksgiving | 1:1-9 |
| II. Problems from House of Chloe | 1:10–6:20 |
| A. Disunity | 1:1–4:21 |
| B. Immorality Tolerated | 5:1–6:20 |
| III. Answers to Letter <i>FROM</i> Corinth | 7:1-16:9 |
| A. Questions about Marriage | 7:1-40 |
| B. Limitations of Christian Liberty | 8:1–11:1 |
| C. Practices of Public Worship | 11:2-16 |
| D. Lord's Supper | 11:17-34 |
| E. Exercise of Spiritual Gifts | 12:1-14:40 |
| IV. Resurrection of the Body | 15:1-58 |
| V. Conclusion | 16:5-24 |



Outline of 1 Corinthians

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 - B. Immorality Tolerated** 5:1–6:20
- III. Answers to Letter *FROM* Corinth** 7:1-16:9
 - A. Questions about Marriage** 7:1-40

- 7:1-7 Marriage & Intimacy – Don't Deprive One Another**
- 7:8-9 Marriage & Singleness – Stay Single, if No Control**
- 7:10-16 Marriage & Divorce – Remain Married**
- 7:17-24 Remain as Called**
- 7:25-38 Regarding Virgins & Engagement**
- 7:39-40 Widows & Remarriage**



7:1-7 Marriage & Intimacy –

● ***1 NOW FOR*** the matters you wrote about:

KJV & NASB say

**good for a man
not to touch a woman**

“NOW FOR” or “Now About” appear 7 Times

7:1 *now for* **Husbands & Wives**

7:25 *now for* **Virgins**

8:1 *now for* **Food Sacrificed to Idols**

8:4 *now for* **Eating such Food**

... 9-10 more on idolatry

... 11 on Lord's Supper

12:1 *now for* **Spiritual Gifts**

... 13 Love

... 14 Tongues & Prophecy

... 15 Resurrection

16:1 *now for* **Collections**

16:12 *now for* **Apollos**



Apostle Paul, c. 1657
Rembrandt van Rijn (1606-69)

7:1-7 Marriage & Intimacy –

Chapter 7 ... there is a repetition hard to hear

1-7 to **Married** **Stay Married, honor desires**

8-9 to **Unmarried** **Remain Unmarried**
& **Widows**

10-11 to **Married** **Remain Married**

12-16 to **Unbelieving Spouse** **Remain Married**

25-38 to **Virgins** **Remain Unmarried**

39-40 to **Widows** **May Remarry, Yet Happier *NOT***

Among the volumes on the broader meaning of these?

Paul places a **High Value** on **Married Love**



Apostle Paul, c. 1657
Rembrandt van Rijn (1606-69)

7:1-7 Marriage & Intimacy –

¹ ***NOW FOR*** the matters you wrote about:

Notice ... Paul addresses the Corinthian Church
who **WROTE HIM** about – chapters 7-16

NONE of these items were as bad as, **or raunchy**
as the whistle-blowing of the House of Chloe

Their Letter concerns issues ... we gather ... that trouble the

BEST Christians in the Church of Corinth

Marriage ... Sex ... Divorce ... Gifts ... LOVE

Paul Drives Home *LOVE*



Apostle Paul, c. 1657
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Do you have a inkling of how much **HAS BEEN**
and **IS BEING** written about

✓ **MARRIAGE?**

✓ **Divorce?**

✓ **Non-porn Sex?**

✓ **Love & Relationships?**



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Marriage Counseling is a multi-million-dollar affair

Include books on “relationships” – multi-billion-dollar affair

Paul’s answer – **Married?** = **Stay Married**

Single? = **Stay Single**



Nor is it a surprise that a **LARGER** industry
exists on **SONG ... MUSIC**

Even **Movies** and **Dramas** and **Plays**

When we talk about Marriage ... and LOVE

BEST IN LIFE

Best Christians in Corinth troubled w Marriage & Divorce

What then about Heart Ache ... Loneliness ... God's Work

Paul's answer – **Married? = Stay Married**

Single? = Stay Single

Oh my—I am SURE many do NOT like that



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Rembrandt van Rijn (1606-69)c



See my book on divorce grief

***Precious Heart – Broken Heart:
Love & the Search for Finality in Divorce***

www.PreciousHeart.net/divorce/index.htm

I compiled a bibliography on nearly everything
written in English on Divorce, 13,000+

[www.PreciousHeart.net/Main Archives/Divorce Archive/Divorce Main Page.htm](http://www.PreciousHeart.net/Main%20Archives/Divorce%20Archive/Divorce%20Main%20Page.htm)

Library of Congress in 1993 allowed for easier
“searches” back then than they do today

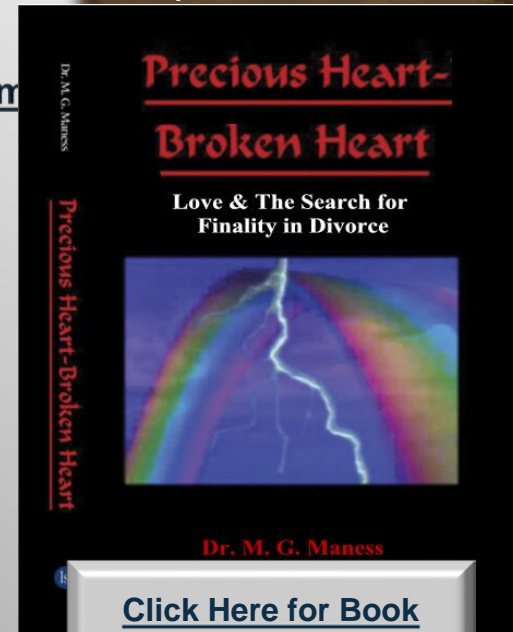
Marriage & Divorce ... LOSS Hard to Imagine ...

“Finality” is very hard to attain in Divorce

1 Corinthians 7 ... all about Marriage & Divorce



Apostle Paul, c. 1657



[Click Here for Book](#)

In the book, I include 7 poems I wrote about that time
Paul writes to Corinth about Marriage & Divorce ...
encouraging those Married to **STAY MARRIED** ...
And to the Single to **STAY SINGLE** ...

Want to know a LITTLE about ... **LOST LOVE?**

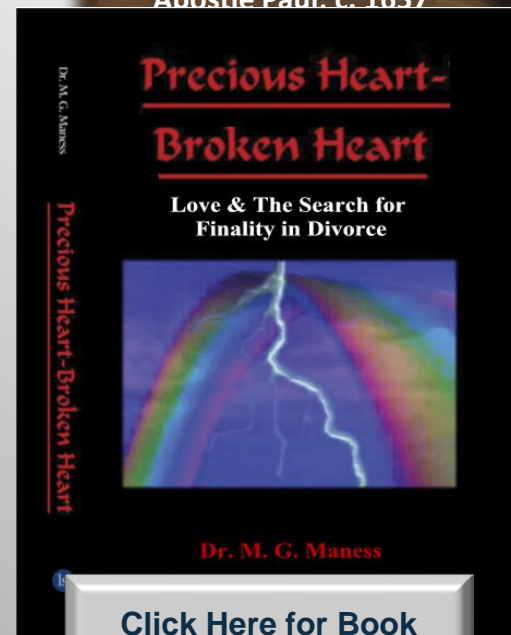
Loneliness third poem ... by Michael G. Maness, 1993

www.PreciousHeart.net/poems/Loneliness.htm

From the very essence of my living
Is pulled the rough substance of my being,
And I groan deep inside with a screaming
As if to scratch from the darkness a seeing.



Apostle Paul. c. 1657



Loneliness by Michael G. Maness, 1993

www.PreciousHeart.net/poems/Loneliness.htm

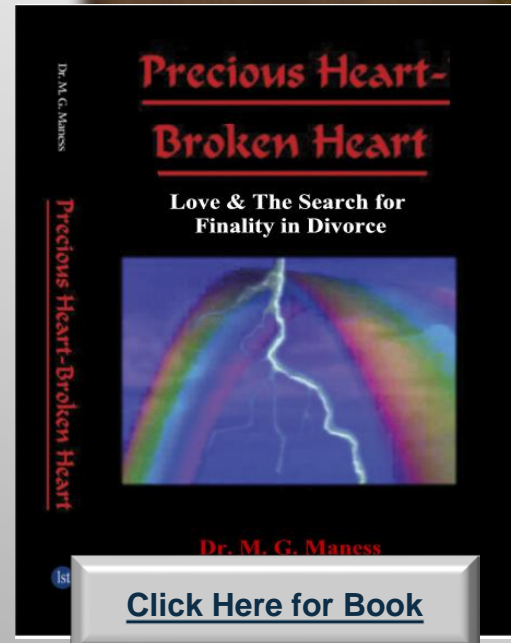
Thrown onto the hot pavement it crackles
As helpless I sit here in these shackles,
Listening to what seems like rude cackles.

For the absence of a love becomes crude
As even the furniture seems to brood,
While the heart attempts to become shrewd.

And the shackles become even tighter
As one's essence crackles even brighter,
Struggling so hard to become a fighter.



Apostle Paul, c. 1657



Loneliness by Michael G. Maness, 1993

www.PreciousHeart.net/poems/Loneliness.htm

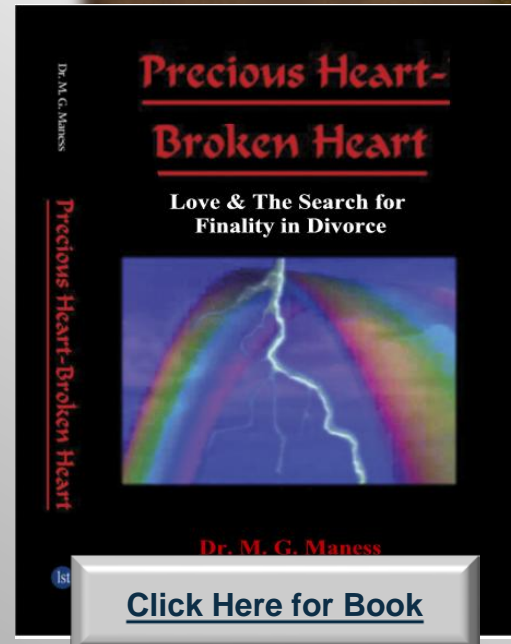
Upon the pavement, I watch its slow glow,
Shackled as I ponder what I do know:
That my way it will never again blow.

I leave the ashes of my essence there,
Shielding a blood-curdling scare—
Attempted to cover my heart laid bare.

To claw and scratch in this darkness weary
Becomes a task that makes each day dreary,
That at the day's end leaves the eyes teary.



Apostle Paul, c. 1657



Loneliness by Michael G. Maness, 1993

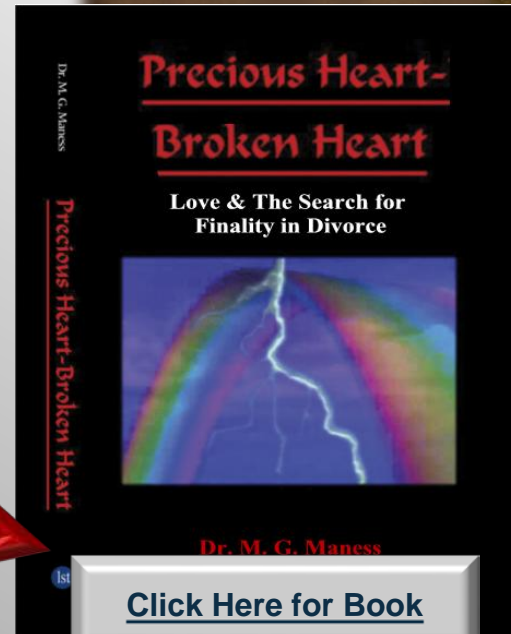
www.PreciousHeart.net/poems/Loneliness.htm

For a vacancy never before filled,
Is a vacancy that cannot be drilled,
A vacancy that won't be taxed and billed.

But once the room is filled, then vacated . . .
And with the drilling was fabricated,
Then the deep hole can never be placated,
When two hearts—once one—are separated.



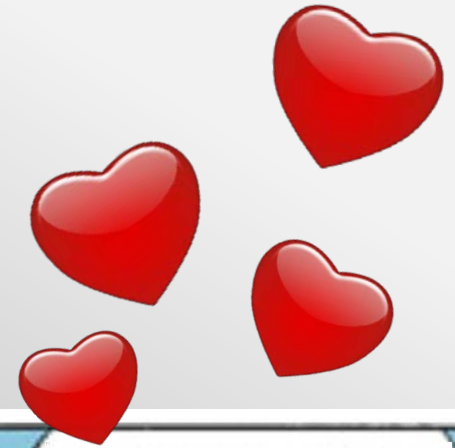
Apostle Paul, c. 1657



[Click Here for Book](#)

Charlie Brown and Peppermint Patti ... the *Almost Affair*

Most mysterious
ways of a woman
and a man



1 Corinthians was to the Church Leaders in Corinth

We left chapter 6 ... hoping

Hoping the Corinthian Church would accept Paul

First problem was to kick out a man bedding his stepmother

Then, in 6:12-20 ... Paul PLEADED that they NOT

Visit Prostitutes

reality of which was they ought NOT to

Visit Young Sex Slaves

NEVERMORE

7:1-7 Marriage & Intimacy – Don't Deprive One Another

Did Corinth REALLY ask about all these things
from chapters 7-16? ...

Let me remind you ... leaving chapter 6 ugliness

Paul now says,

¹ Now for the matters you wrote about:

CSB Quarterly said

“It is good for a man
not to use a woman for sex”

Why “not to use” ... when v. 2 essentially says *Have Sex*



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Rembrandt van Rijn (1606-69)



See how others Translate:

NIV & ESV good for a man not to have
sexual relations with a woman

HCSB good for a man not to have
relations with a woman

KJV & NASB good for a man
not to touch a woman

What is Paul
saying in 7:1

57

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What is Paul saying here? ... ah, look at 7:7

⁷ I wish that all of you were as I am.

Look at 7:2-6 ... *because* of immorality ... **WHAT?**

Have Sex with Your Spouse

because of
Immorality?



7:1-7 Marriage & Intimacy – Don't Deprive One Another

7:1 LITERALLY – says ... in Greek

Good a Man, a Woman Not Touch

7:1 uses the same Greek word as in Luke 6:19

“people all tried to **TOUCH** him, because power was coming from him and healing them all”

CLEARLY ... the context BEFORE & AFTER 7:1

Clearly implies Sexual Touching ...

What is Paul Saying?



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**7:1-7 Marriage & Intimacy –
Don't Deprive One Another**

Should be pretty obvious by now ...

Paul is saying ... or rather ...

Paul rather simply said:

**Good a Man & a Woman
NOT touch**

Da da dat's all folks ...

Sex causes more problems than it's worth.

Yes, be committed ...

but what does Paul say?



Addressing their questions in chapters 7-16:

Is this then *Their Question?* Or *His Answer?*

Good a Man & a Woman

NOT touch

Some tend to it as their **QUESTION**, as if some
in Corinth were **staying AWAY from ALL Sex**

That's a tad weird ... and unlikely given context

If Paul's ANSWER ... better FIT to context

Fits better Chapter 6 ugliness & rest of Chapter 7

Also fits better the “self-control” Paul drives home

“Self-Control” – Major Theme thru chapters 7-16



Just ask George Strait ... in his Album
Easy Come, Easy Go ... w song *The Love Bug*

Well I was ruling the roost,
had all the chicks to myself.

And suddenly it happened,
that funny little feeling I felt.

Well I tried to outrun it,
but it finally caught up with me.

Tell me how can I run from something that I can't see?

Oh that little bitty teeny weeny thing they call the Love Bug.



Apostle Paul, c. 1657
Rembrandt van Rijn (1606-69)



Love Bug ✝

Just ask George Strait ... *The Love Bug*



Nobody's ever seen it,
but it's got the **WHOLE WORLD SHOOK UP.**

It all started with a little bitty kiss and a hug.
It's a little bitty teeny weeny thing
they call the Love Bug....

Well I was walking all around with my head held way up high,
And it fooled me ... hit me ... really took me by surprise.

Oh that little bitty teeny weeny thing they call the Love Bug.

Nobody's ever seen it,

but it's got the whole world shook up.



Love Bug



Apostle Paul, c. 1657
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7:1-7 Marriage & Intimacy – Don't Deprive One Another

Paul may have been married ... even likely
Common for Jewish men to marry early ...
Maybe he was a widower ... be nice to know
But Paul enters his discussion at 7:2

² But since sexual immorality is occurring, each man
should have sexual relations with his own wife,
and each woman with her own husband.

STRANGE is this: Paul appears to say,

Have Marital Sex BECAUSE of Immorality



Apostle Paul, c. 1657
Rembrandt van Rijn (1606-69)

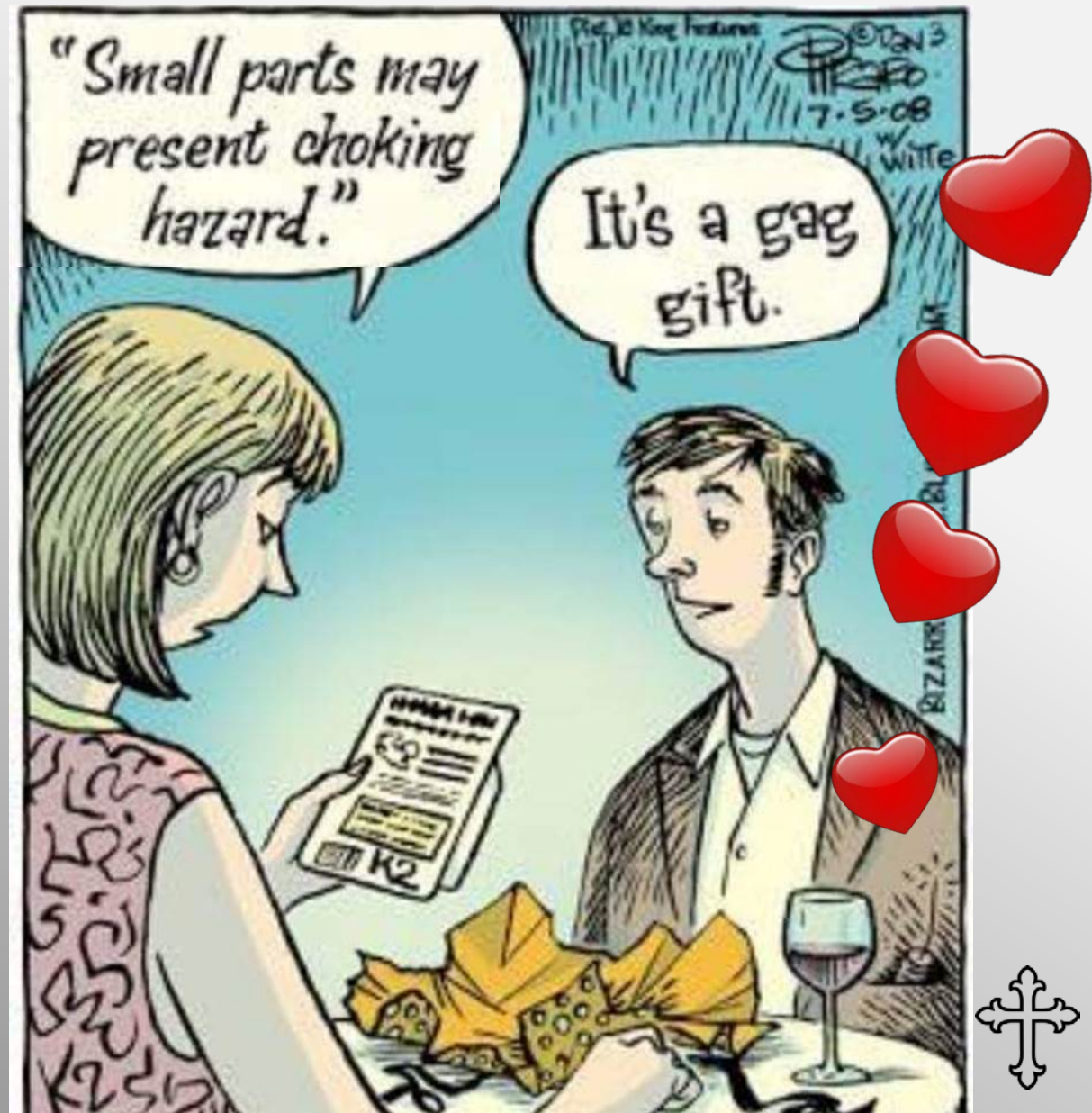


Romantic Fails

Lady reading
note on her GIFT

No Mystery there
Some men just

FAIL



7:1-7 Marriage & Intimacy – Don't Deprive One Another

Nothing hard about 7:2 ... and following verses
except this: Does Paul REALLY say?

Because of PORN ... Have Married Sex

In light of chapter 6, chapter 7 does argue:

Paul very clearly argues to MARRY ... if, if

You Can't Keep Your Tunic On

Really? ... oh, YES ...

and Paul gets explicit



7:1-7 Marriage & Intimacy – Don't Deprive One Another

³ The husband should fulfill his marital duty to his wife, & likewise the wife to her husband.

Furthermore ... *BE HUMANE* ... yield

⁴ The wife does not have authority over her own body but yields it to her husband.

In the same way, the husband does not have authority over his own body but yields it to his wife.

What a beautiful way to give respect to each other

More to this than meets the eye ... and **HEART**



7:1-7 Marriage & Intimacy – Don't Deprive One Another

Paul is recognizing a great drive ... for intimacy

In chapter 7 ... Self-Control is given Star Power

Read the chapter ... Paul favors abstinence

In Chapter 6 Paul prohibited

- Incest
- Using young sex slaves

Chapter 7 ... Marriage—only proper avenue for sex

Paul encourages a **Mutual Respect** ... as though that

Mutual Respect may **NOT** have been going on ...



Apostle Paul, c. 1657

59)

**Wives are
NOT Slaves**

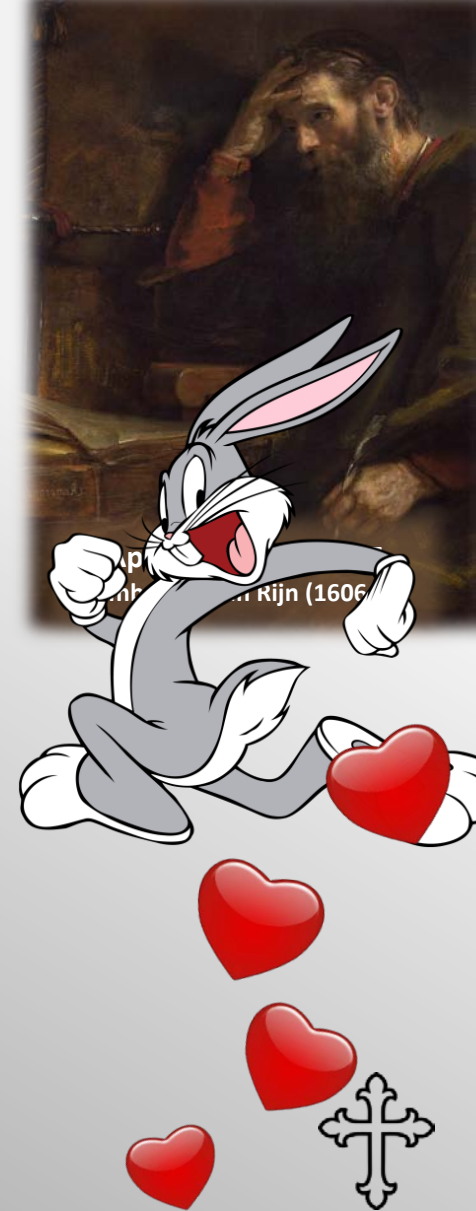


7:1-7 Marriage & Intimacy – Don't Deprive One Another

⁵ Do not deprive each other except perhaps
by mutual consent and for a time,
so that you may devote yourselves to prayer.
Then come together again so that Satan will not
tempt you because of your lack of self-control.
⁶ I say this as a concession, not as a command.

Paul empowers women here ...

Married Sex is for *B O T H*



7:1-7 Marriage & Intimacy – Don't Deprive One Another

Furthermore ... do not ... do NOT let this slip
I gather some do not like to say it ... bluntly

Marriage is for Sex
or

Need Sex? ... **GET MARRIED**

Procreation is ... well ... *not mentioned*

In God's inspired WORD ... we have
what we have all known since puberty ...

SEX Drives us Bonkers



Charlie Brown and Peppermint Patti ... the *Almost Affair*

Most mysterious
ways of a woman
and a man



7:1-7 Marriage & Intimacy – Don't Deprive One Another

Paul drops a bombshell ...

⁷ I wish that all of you were as I am.

But each of you has your own GIFT from God:
one has this GIFT, another has that.

Really Paul? **GIFT?** ... **What “GIFT”?**

Reality is ... *hold on to your hat Mabeline* ...

Reality is ... no one ... **NO ONE** ...

No one WANTS to be like Paul



Apostle Paul, c. 1657
Rembrandt van Rijn (1606-69)



**7:1-7 Marriage & Intimacy –
Don't Deprive One Another**

Well maybe not a BOMBSHELL ...

⁷ I wish that all of you were as I am.

This & other verses HAVE led to HERMITISM

There ARE those who have felt the “Call”

Catholic Church celibacy rules Priests

Monks & Nuns have separated themselves for centuries

Outside the “Call” to exclusive ministry ...

No one WANTS to be like Paul



7:8-9 Marriage & Singleness –
Stay Single, if No Control

No ONE wants to be alone ... *I think Paul knows*

⁸ Now to the unmarried and the widows I say:
It is good for them to stay unmarried, as I do.

⁹ But if they **CANNOT** control themselves,
they should marry, for it is better
to marry than to burn with passion.

Forget the fact the older you get
the easier it is to do without ... remember

Paul, 7:1 ... Good NOT to Touch!



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Rembrandt van Rijn (1606-69)



7:8-9 Marriage & Singleness –
Stay Single, if No Control

BETTER ... Paul says, to remain as he does

BETTER ... to do without sex ...

Paul's meaning is not that hard to grasp.

For the sake of the Kingdom ... *abstain*.

Yet ... Paul knows ... most are **NOT like him.**

Most will NOT be like Paul ... and in fact

Most do NOT WANT to Live without Sex



7:10-16 Marriage & Divorce – Body Part of Christ's Body

Therefore, perhaps in answer to the Corinthians

¹⁰ To the married I give this command
(not I, but the Lord):

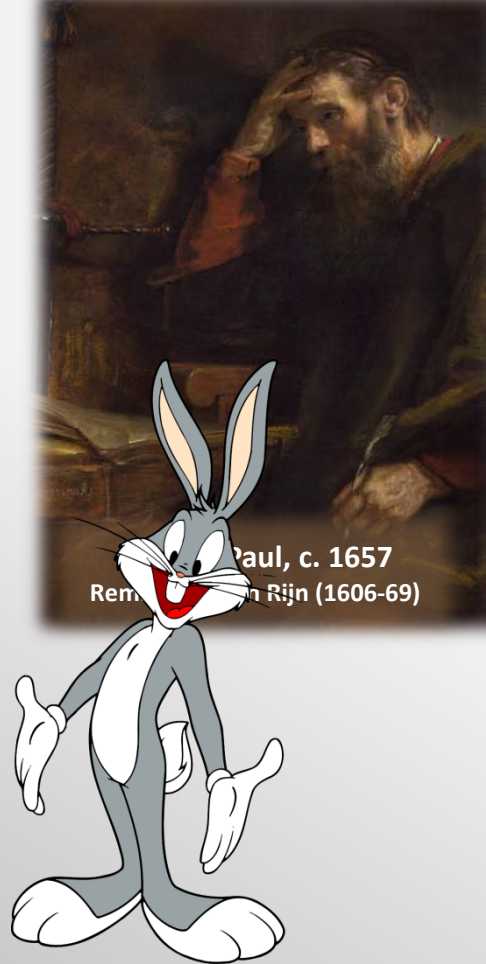
A wife must NOT separate from her husband.

¹¹ But if she does, she must remain unmarried
or else be reconciled to her husband.

And a husband must NOT divorce his wife.

MUST NOT ... DIVORCE ... heavy terms.

Most understand this: **Marriage is for Life**



7:10-16 Marriage & Divorce – Body Part of Christ's Body

From there ... Paul wings it ...

¹² To the rest I say this (I, not the Lord):
If any brother has a wife who is not a
believer and she is willing to live with him,
he must NOT divorce her.

¹³ And if a woman has a husband who is not a
believer and he is willing to live with her,
she must NOT divorce him.

Here is a tender consideration ... *not obvious*



7:10-16 Marriage & Divorce –
Body Part of Christ's Body

IF ... IF ... IF they are willing? ... What is that?

he ... she must NOT divorce ...

**Burden of staying married to an unbeliever
rests with the “willingness” of the unbeliever.**

If the unbelieving DOES NOT ... want to stay?

Go ahead and divorce???

These are not easy ...

And I venture not easy for Paul either ...



Apostle Paul, c. 1657
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7:10-16 Marriage & Divorce – Body Part of Christ's Body

Paul then tosses in Spouse sanctification

¹⁴ For the unbelieving husband has been sanctified through his wife,
and the unbelieving wife has been sanctified through her believing husband.
Otherwise your children would be unclean,
but as it is, they are holy.

What is that?



7:10-16 Marriage & Divorce –
Body Part of Christ's Body

Unbeliever SANCTIFIED by the Believer?

Same root word used in 7:14 is used in 1:2

**² To the church of God which is at Corinth,
to those who have been SANCTIFIED
in Christ Jesus**

**Of all things ... it does NOT mean the
unbeliever will be SAVED to eternal life.**

“Sanctified” in 7:14 refers to the MARRIAGE



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7:10-16 Marriage & Divorce – Body Part of Christ's Body

Paul helps us ... freeing the believer to
remarry if the unbeliever leaves ...

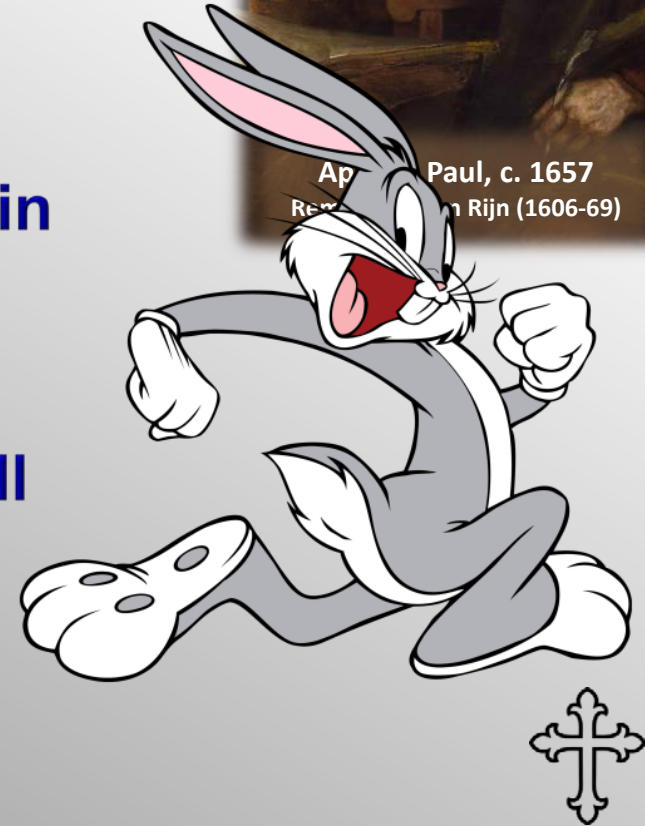
**¹⁵ But if the unbeliever leaves, let it be so.
The brother or the sister is not bound in
such circumstances;
God has called us to live in peace.**

**¹⁶ How do you know, wife, whether you will
SAVE your husband?**

**Or, how do you know, husband,
whether you will SAVE your wife?**



Ap Paul, c. 1657
Rembrandt van Rijn (1606-69)



7:10-16 Marriage & Divorce – Body Part of Christ's Body

So then ... Paul himself confirms ... the unbeliever
MIGHT be **SAVED** through the piety & Christian
life of the **BELIEVING** spouse

Here is the **JEWEL** of the “sanctified” passage

MARRIAGE itself becomes a **VALID marriage** under
God ... *as the two become one flesh*

Catholic Church makes Marriage a Sacrament

An actual Vehicle of Grace & Blessing FROM God

okay, then what is the **JEWEL** you say?



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Rembrandt van Rijn (1606-69)



7:10-16 Marriage & Divorce –

Body Part of Christ's Body

In God's kingdom, there is no TRUE marriage

Without a BELIEF in Christ

Best of BOTH believe ... but ONE is enough

Belief in Christ makes the Marriage SACRED

S a n c t i f i e d

All kinds of “marriage” in A.D. 60 & today

Yet God created us ... Man & Woman ...

Blessed with Sex



Apostle Paul, c. 1657
Rembrandt van Rijn (1606-69)



Marriage ... evenly Yoked with two Believers

Highest Expression

Intimacy & Love

Now catch this ... hold it tightly to your chest

No Believer = OUTSIDE this ... no matter who

- ✓ Shacking Up
- ✓ Any Casual Sex
- ✓ Other Religions
- ✓ Any Homosexual Sex
- ✓ Certainly Any Incest
- ✓ Most Certainly Using Sex Slaves

**NOT
Sanctified**



Apostle Paul, c. 1657
Rembrandt van Rijn (1606-69)



Marriage ... evenly Yoked with Two Believers

Highest Expression

Intimacy & Love

Not all are so blessed ... some look on from afar

Some marriages seemed strained ... still blessed

Bible is CLEAR – 1 Corinthians is CLEAR

- ✓ **In us dwells the Holy Spirit**
- ✓ **Believers are united with Christ**
- ✓ **Sex unites two in a mysterious ecstasy**

Much More



Apostle Paul, c. 1657
Rembrandt van Rijn (1606-69)



Marriage ... evenly Yoked with Two Believers

Highest Expression of Love

When Man & Woman believers Marry in Love

Therein ... that union comes closest to heaven

That is, closer than other relation on earth

That is, closer ... if both are believers

This side of heaven –

No closer LOVE



Apostle Paul, c. 1657
Rembrandt van Rijn (1606-69)



Marriage ... evenly Yoked with Two Believers

Highest Expression of Love

Here Ye ... we were made in Image of God

Church is "THE Bride of Christ"

"Great Wedding" feast will herald in Heaven

Marriage ... many may marry this side of heaven

Many of many religions ... of many ethics, too

U.S. & Texas: many kinds of LEGAL marriage

But the CLOSEST ... Most Sacred Love is

Between Two Married Believers



Marriage ... evenly Yoked with Two Believers

Highest Expression of Love

When Man & Woman BELIEVERS Marry in Love

**They are BLESSED by God ... having been
Made in the Image of God ... are capable of**

Closest Love

This Side of Heaven

Can one describe this intimacy ... this LOVE?

Does not MUSIC make the Soul Sing?

We KNOW the splendid tune ... feel gentle tone



Apostle Paul, c. 1657
Rembrandt van Rijn (1606-69)



Marriage ... evenly Yoked with Two Believers

Highest Expression of Love

Music ... like Mozart ... George Beverly Shae

Gifted Geniuses write it ... yet ALL Enjoy

Music in heaven, too, ALL will enjoy Eternally

LOVE this side of heaven ... best is found in

Marriage of Two BELIEVERS

Of many a splendid song ... one comes to mind

I'm sure you have one ... two ... or a dozen



Apostle Paul, c. 1657
Rembrandt van Rijn (1606-69)



Marriage ... evenly Yoked with Two Believers

Highest Expression of Love

One song by Calvin Lewis & Andrew Wright

When a Man Loves a Woman

Google yielded 13,800,000 hits ...

**First recorded by Percy Sledge in 1966 and
rocketed to #1 on both Billboard 100 & R&B**

**Also sung by Bette Midler, Rod Stewart, and
Michael Bolton—Bolton's hitting #1 in 1992**



Apostle Paul, c. 1657
Rembrandt van Rijn (1606-69)



One version or legend of the song's origin:

Percy Sledge was an orderly at the

Colbert County Hospital during the days

A singer with Lewis & Wright in a band at night

Colbert County Hospital ... renamed

Helen Keller Hospital in 1979

Sledge, very sad one night over a WOMAN he loved

**Overcome with emotion, Percy Sledge asked
bass player Calvin Lewis and organ player
Andrew Wright to play a slow blues**

He sung what he was FEELING

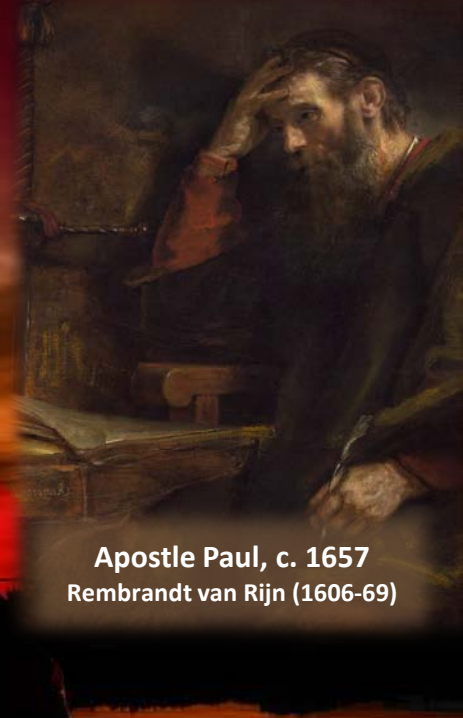


Apostle Paul, c. 1657
Rembrandt van Rijn (1606-69)



trio reworked the lyrics ... into #1 Hit, 1966

When a man loves a woman
Can't keep his mind on nothing else
He'll trade the world
For the good thing he's found
If she's bad he can't see it
She can do no wrong ...
When a man loves a woman
Spend his very last dime ...



Apostle Paul, c. 1657
Rembrandt van Rijn (1606-69)

trio reworked the lyrics ... into #1 Hit, 1966

Sleep out in the rain
If she said that's the way it ought to be ...
If she plays him for a fool
He's the last one to know
Loving eyes can't ever see
When a man loves a woman ...
He can never



Apostle Paul, c. 1657
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A couple is shown in silhouette, sitting on a dark shore and looking out at a large, bright red sun that dominates the sky. The sun is reflected in the calm water below. The overall mood is romantic and contemplative.

Marriage ... evenly Yoked with Two Believers

Highest Expression of Love

Comes to many ... this side of heaven

Some – their love has gone before them into heaven

Rest of us have to look to heaven

Thankful for what love we had here ...

With longing in our loving eyes heavenward

Paul's words making a little more sense with age

^{7:7} I wish that all of you were as I am.



Apostle Paul, c. 1657
Rembrandt van Rijn (1606-69)

Marriage ... evenly Yoked with Two Believers

Highest Expression of Love

Yet even Paul knows ... singleness is not the BEST

As a likely widower ... the Best Relationship ... HIGHEST

Closest ... Best Love is Marriage

Between Two Believers ... Heaven's Sublimity BEGINS with
a Wedding Feast ... Nothing Greater

Nothing Greater on Earth Either

Love between a *BELIEVING* Husband & Wife

Christian Marriage Alone Sanctified by God



Apostle Paul, c. 1657
Rembrandt van Rijn (1606-69)