

October 5, 2014

Series Title: Living As the Cross-Centered Community

Message Title: Challenging the Cultures Impact on Us (Part 3)

Passage: 1 Cor. 7:1-5

Overview: Having challenged the notions of human sexuality derived from the surrounding culture that distorted God's design, Paul turns in chapter 7 of 1 Corinthians to answer a series of questions about marriage. The nature of these questions reminds us of how our thinking is regularly impacted by the culture in which we live. In this week's message we will focus on just 5 verses where Paul explains some important things about sex and marriage.

Engaging with each other

1. What's the most recent movie that you've seen that portrayed a "healthy marriage?"

Engaging with the Bible

1. In verse 1 Paul makes a statement that is almost assuredly a quote from the letter he received. What perspective does this statement reveal? Compare and contrast this with the issues dealt with in chapters 5-6.
2. Paul's response to this is found in verses 2-5. The passage is structured in what is known as reverse parallelism (or chiasmic structure). This simply means that the first and last statements are parallel. The second and next to last are parallel and the two statements in the middle are parallel and are the main point of the section. The first and last statements are found in verse 2 and the latter portion of verse 5. What is Paul's point in vs. 2 & 5b? Why is this important considering the culture in which these people live?
3. The 2nd grouping is found in vs. 3 and 5a. What does Paul say about the responsibility that a husband and wife should have toward each other?
4. What is the exception that Paul allows for and what does this reveal about priorities in marriage?
5. The central piece of this section is found in verse 4. What word or words would you to describe what Paul is saying? What is radically Christian about his main point?

Engaging with our lives

1. What are some of the specific influences that have formed our views on sex and marriage?
2. What are some of the problems we find in our society as a result of deriving our view of sexuality from our culture rather than from God?
3. What are some ways we can foster better understanding and expressions of godly sexuality?