

# **AND YOU THINK YOU'VE GOT PROBLEMS**

## ***A study of First Corinthians***

### **LOVE AND MARRIAGE**

1 Corinthians 7:1-9      Jeff Schreve

*Now concerning the things about which you wrote ...*

*1 Corinthians 7:1*

#### **What does God say about love and marriage?**

##### **1. Marriage is not for everyone.**

*Yes, it is good to live a celibate life. 1 Corinthians 7:1 NLT*

###### **A. It is good to be single.**

*An unmarried man can spend his time doing the Lord's work and thinking how to please Him. But a married man has to think about his earthly responsibilities and how to please his wife. His interests are divided. 1 Corinthians 7:33-34 NLT*

###### **B. It is a gift from God to be single.**

*But I wish everyone were single, just as I am. But God gives to some the gift of marriage, and to others the gift of singleness. 1 Corinthians 7:7 NLT*

##### **2. Marriage is for most everyone.**

*But because of immoralities, each man is to have his own wife, and each woman is to have her own husband. 1 Corinthians 7:2*

###### **A. It is good to be married.**

*Enjoy life with the woman whom you love all the days of your fleeting life which He has given to you under the sun; for this is your reward in life and in your toil in which you have labored under the sun. Ecclesiastes 9:9*

###### **B. It is God's default setting.**

*And God blessed them; and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth ..." Genesis 1:28*

### 3. Marriage is the only place for physical love.

*Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled for fornicators and adulterers God will judge.*

*Hebrews 13:4*

*“We shouldn’t be ashamed to discuss what God was not ashamed to create.” Dr. Howard Hendicks*

#### A. God created sex to be pleasurable.

*How beautiful are your feet in sandals, O prince’s daughter! The curves of your hips are like jewels, the work of the hands of an artist. Your navel is like a round goblet which never lacks mixed wine; your belly is like a heap of wheat fenced about with lilies. Your two breasts are like two fawns, twins of a gazelle.*

*Your neck is like a tower of ivory, your eyes like the pools in Heshbon by the gate of Bath-rabbim; your nose is like the tower of Lebanon, which faces toward Damascus. Your head crowns you like Carmel, and the flowing locks of your head are like purple threads; the king is captivated by your tresses.*

*How beautiful and how delightful you are, my love, with all your charms! Your stature is like a palm tree, and your breasts are like its clusters. I said, “I will climb the palm tree, I will take hold of its fruit stalks.” Oh, may your breasts be like clusters of the vine, and the fragrance of your breath like apples, and your mouth like the best wine! It goes down smoothly for my beloved, flowing gently through the lips of those who fall asleep.*

*Song of Solomon 7:1-9*

#### B. God wants sex to be freely and frequently expressed.

*The husband must fulfill his duty to his wife, and likewise also the wife to her husband. The wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband does; and likewise also the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife does. Stop depriving one another, except by agreement for a time, so that you may devote yourselves to prayer, and come together again so that Satan will not tempt you because of your lack of self-control. 1 Corinthians 7:3-5*

**Will you do life God’s way?**