

2012 Series “Advice On Marriage” (#03)
“Sex, Widowed and Divorced”

During the month of March, all my lessons will be taken from 1 Corinthians Ch.7.

Paul designed the special phrase, **Now Concerning**, to divide chs.7-16 into four sections (1 Cor.7:1; 8:1; 12:1; and 16:1). This special phrase was used to address specific problems about which the church leaders had written – “Now concerning the things about which you wrote.” (1 Cor.7:1)

Paul addressed at least the following ten problems regarding marriage in ch.7.

(1 Cor.7:1-2)	Introduction	(1 Cor.7:12-16)	Unequally Yoked and Divorce
(1 Cor.7:1-2)	Pre-marital Sex	(Matt.19:1-9)	Divorce and Remarriage
(1 Cor.7:7-9)	SEX: Widowed and Divorced	(1 Cor.7:17-24)	Status Quo
(1 Cor.7:3-6)	Marital Sex	(1 Cor.7:25-28)	Christian Virginity
(1 Cor.7:10-11)	Separation and Reconciliation		

Paul addressed today’s lesson to the unmarried (tois agamos) and to the widowed (tais chera) (1 Cor.7:8). Because the Greek word agamos is contrasted to virgin (parthenos) [single and never married] in (1 Cor.7:34), I have chosen to refer to the divorced unmarried of our lesson text by agamos.

This lesson will study two important aspects of SEX: Widowed and Divorced.

1. The same doctrinal principles regarding pre-marital sex apply to Christian widowed and divorced.

Seven of these doctrinal principles:

- Unmarried are instructed to never initiate or participate in sexual arousal (1 Cor.7:1-2).
- We are taught that the human body was not designed for **perverted sexual behavior** (porneia) (1 Cor.6:12-14).
- Every Church Age Believer’s (CAB) body belongs to the Lord because He bought it while on the cross (1 Cor.6:19-20).
- At salvation, the CAB’s body is united to the body of Christ, and only Christ can unite it to another CAB in marriage (Matt.19:4-6; 1 Cor.7:39; 6:15-17; 12:13).
- Every CAB’s body is the temple (naos) of the indwelling Holy Spirit (1 Cor.6:19-20).
- Therefore, **perverted sexual behavior** (porneia) is a sin against the CAB’s own body as well as the Lord (1 Cor.6:18; 1 John 1:9; Col.3:5).
- Two Christians intending to marry should marry once they mutually agree they no longer want to exercise self-control in this area (1 Cor.7:1, 9).

2. **Once a person is saved (1 Cor.15:3-4; Rom.1:16; Eph.2:8-9; John 10:28-30), the inhaling and exhaling of the word of God (2 Tim.3:16-17) should change the believer's view regarding the physical function of his body (1 Cor.7:1-9).**

Seven doctrinal principles related to this point.

- The CWL is more than physical comfort and satisfaction (Matt.6:25-33).
- Physical provisions become grace oriented (1 Tim.4:4-5) (Acts 10:15, 28, 34).
- The Soul of the believer is fed by the word of God, not by the world (Matt.4:4) (Heb.4:12) (3 John 2-4).
- It is not what goes into the body, but goes into the heart that defiles a believer (Mark 7:18-23).
- Since the believer's body belongs to Lord, he should offer his body as a living, pleasing sacrifice to the Lord (Rom.12:1-2; 1 Cor.6:12-20).
- In marital sex, the believer's body that belongs to the Lord also belongs to his / her believing mate

(1 Cor.7:4-5) "So husbands **ought to love their own wives as their own bodies**, he who loves his own wife loves himself; for no one ever hated his own flesh, but **nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ also does the church.** " (Eph.5:28-29)
- The lustful behavior of the sin-nature can be absolutely controlled by walking by means of the indwelling Holy Spirit (Gal.5:16-26; Rom.6:12-17; 8:5-9).