

Series Title:

“Tightening the Knot”

Don Jennings, II

Sermon Title:

“God’s Design for Sexual Intimacy”
(Part 3)

Harbour Shores Church

Sermon Text:

I Corinthians 7:1-7

5.18.08

Introduction:



- I. **The Limitations Of Sexual Intimacy** (7:1-2, 8-9)
- II. **The Obligations Of Sexual Intimacy** (7:3-4)
- III. **The _____ Of Sexual Intimacy** (7:5)

- There are several principles that are clearly communicated in this verse:

Principle #1 - **Neither The Husband Nor The Wife Has The _____ To _____ Their Mate** (v. 5a)

- The Greek imperative translated “*stop depriving*” literally means “*stop _____*” or “*stop _____*.”
- **Sexual intimacy between a husband and a wife is not only God-ordained – it is _____!**

“No spouse has the right to unilaterally deny their wife or husband the pleasure of sexual intimacy. Paul says that would be tantamount to religious fraud!”

- **What are you to do if relational struggles are disrupting the intimacy and openness that you are to enjoy physically with your husband or wife?**

Principle #2 - **Sexual Abstinence Is To Be A _____ And _____ To The Norm Of Regular Sexual Union** (v. 5b)

- Paul sets down four very stringent requirements regarding the cessation of normal sexual relations in marriage:

1) **Sexual abstinence must be a _____** (v. 5b)

- **Sexual abstinence must not be a decision that is made by _____ spouse.**
- What is the meaning of the word translated “*agreement*”?

“If you force sexual abstinence on your partner, you are robbing him or her. But if you both agree, then God will honor your decision.”

- One of the most frequent causes for disaster in marriage is a _____ to grant the gift of enjoyment and pleasure to one’s mate.

2) **Sexual abstinence must be only for a set** (v. 5c)

- In the Greek, the phrase “*for a time*” is not a reference to a _____ time, but a _____ time. It doesn’t mean _____, but for a specifically _____ time.

“When it comes to the matter of a mutually agreed upon period of sexual abstinence in marriage, God requires that there be a clearly defined beginning and end.”

3) **Sexual abstinence must be for a** (v. 5d)

- Exodus 19:9-15; Joel 2:16; Zechariah 12:11-12; I Corinthians 7:5
- ***The specific purpose for the temporary interruption of a married couple’s sex life is in order to _____.***
- The kind of prayer that Paul is referring to indicates a _____ and _____ kind of _____.

This is a _____ driven decision!

4) **Sexual abstinence must be** (v. 5e)

- What does he mean when he says, “*come together again*”?
- **What is the meaning of the word translated “*self-control*”?**
- ***“When you withhold sexual intimacy from your partner for any reason, you put them in a situation where Satan could tempt them because of their lack of self-control!”***

Conclusion:

This is not to be taken lightly because this is God’s design for your marriage.