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Central Congregational Church
"For the Glory of God and the Good of our Neighbors"
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Marriage Matters
1 Corinthians 7:1-24
Series: Following Jesus in the Real World

Central Passage

1 Corinthians 7:17 (ESV) — 17 Only let each person lead the life that the Lord has assigned to him, and to which God has called him. This is my rule in all the churches.

Central Thought: As Christ followers, and in light of his return, we are called to fully honor our relational commitments, yet not give in to pressure to conform to societal or religious relational expectations.

- ❖ For married couples, regular physical intimacy is part of fulfilling our vows and a form of spiritual warfare. (vs. 1-5)

*Proverbs 5:18–19 (ESV) — 18 Let your fountain be blessed, and rejoice in the wife of your youth, 19 a lovely deer, a graceful doe. Let her breasts fill you at all times with delight; **be intoxicated always in her love.***

- ❖ Singleness and celibacy is a spiritual gift, and should be pursued, or not, with that understanding. (vs. 6-9)

*Matthew 19:9–12 (ESV) — 9 And I say to you: whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery." 10 The disciples said to him, "If such is the case of a man with his wife, it is better not to marry." 11 But he said to them, "Not everyone can receive this saying, but only those to whom it is given. 12 For there are eunuchs who have been so from birth, and there are eunuchs who have been made eunuchs by men, and there are eunuchs who have made themselves eunuchs for the sake of the kingdom of heaven. **Let the one who is able to receive this receive it.**"*

- ❖ The sanctity of the marriage vow, even to an unbelieving spouse, should be respected and maintained as far as it depends on you. (vs. 10-16)

Hebrews 13:4 (ESV) — 4 Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous.

Conclusion

- ❖ Jesus calls us to follow him right now, where we are, in whatever life situation we find ourselves – married, single, divorced, religious, secular, labor or management. (vs. 17-24)

Romans 8:28–30 (ESV) — 28 And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. 29 For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. 30 And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.