

1Corinthians 18-05-20a

Good morning, welcome to the Sunday morning services at Grace and Truth Bible Church in Owosso, Oklahoma this morning we're grateful that everyone has been able to join us and trust that it will be an encouragement and An opportunity for all of us to learn and to grow and to draw closer to the Lord Jesus Christ We're going to continue this morning our study in the book of first Corinthians and We're at the threshold of chapter 8 but there are a couple of final thoughts for chapter 7 because it is such a critically important chapter and is an example as we have seen using the area of life of marriage whether married unmarried widowed or Still having the whole concept in prospect, but it is a paradigm it is the issue in Corinth that is given to us as an illustration of how to apply Certain principles from the Word of God that pertain not only to this area, but to every other area of our lives Let's take a moment as we begin to ask God's blessing on our fellowship and on our study And then we'll pick up in first Corinthians chapter 7 father. How thankful we are for the Lord Jesus Christ and the Knowledge that we have the relationship that we have the understanding that we gain to put this life into perspective and to realize the greater and grander realities that condition and inform This brief Material life that we now live we thank you for our challenges we thank you for the tests that Draw us closer to you and turn us toward the guidance that is in your word We do not have an easy way. We don't have an uncomplicated or uncluttered path And we know that this is by design and that you leave us here after Our expression of faith in your son the Lord Jesus to benefit us and to give us those experiences and Understandings that will enable us to be good servants and good stewards both now and in the ages to come we thank you for this portion of your word and the ministry of the Apostle Paul in Presenting it we pray that your Holy Spirit will be our teacher and will illuminate each portion of this passage to each heart so that we can make use of it as we consider our own situation the decisions that we face the opportunities that we have and most of all the current Status the Calling in which we have been called and in which we now walk We pray that in all things the Lord Jesus Christ will be glorified and that we can reflect his light not only in each other's lives But also to an ever-darkening world as we Await the approach of the day when the Lord Jesus will return to take us to himself and present us before your throne We pray all these things in Jesus name.

Amen 1st Corinthians chapter 7 the topic is Marriage, and you'll remember that the outline generally is The first nine verses look at married life These are broad strokes And how Faithful believers should Treat each other and should view each other and understand their union before the Lord as husband and wife then he addresses the unmarried toward the end of that section in verse 8 and 9 and Then he picks up the married again in verse 10 with respect to What if the marriage is not going well the first? Section talks about a normal and hopefully happy union this next section is what if there are problems and so he addresses the issue of divorce of departure of Whether one partner is faithful and one is faithless and so this second section goes verses 10 through 16 and I'm going to you can put a Asterisk by that because I'm going to suggest a change this morning to that section I think it's not divided quite right at its end But then in your Bible if you

you'll notice that your new King James if you have one like mine pretty much has Section headings at these points so in mine. There is a heading before verse 1 that says the use of marriage and then Between verse 9 and 10 it says keep your marriage vows and then between 16 and 17 it says live as you are called These are not bad labels, but I think that third one is misplaced but according to the standard Understanding that Begins a new section in verse 17 and goes through verse 24 Then once again you have a heading in your new King James to the unmarried and widows and this is principles for the unmarried that extends all the way down to verse 38 and At that point you have Principles for remarriage in verses 39 and 40 So all about marriage and when you get to chapter 8 we now begin to move into the area of Freedom versus responsibility to others So before we move on to verse 1 of chapter 8. I want to just say a couple of additional things about chapter 7 First of all we're going to look at the Principles of Application these are principles of application that come from this we did a lot of Exegesis and detailed looking at the content last time, but we want to answer the question for ourselves So what we may not be people that have a troubled marriage. We may not be contemplating divorce we may not have any issues in the area of who's got authority over whom and One of us may not be a pistilla or faithless so In what way is this very pertinent for me? Well again as we have noted? This is one area of life, and it is a central area for nearly everyone married or unmarried it's It's a it's an issue that defines us in many ways So first of all when you get to verse 2, and he says because of pornaya because of sexual immorality Let each man have his own wife and let each woman have her own husband now Having covered the entire chapter.

You know that toward the end of The chapter further on it seems as though and the common interpretation I would say in the vast majority of commentaries is Paul really counsels abstinence and Avoiding marriage remaining single. I wish that everybody was like me You're going to be free from distractions and worries if you get married You're going to be concerned about your spouse and so the whole tenor of the chapter if somebody just reads it And you say well, what do you think Paul is saying here about marriage? He's saying well unless you're already stuck in it avoid it right That is not in my view what this chapter is saying and it begins here in verse 2 First of all where it says Because of sexual immorality that word in Greek pornaya is plural it is pornaya's Because of immoralities there are multiple opportunities To Have trouble In the absence of marriage pretty much There's a connotation here that if it weren't for marriage all sex would be immoral There's only one arena where? Relations between a man and a woman are good and Permissible and healthy and proper and that's within marriage, and if it weren't for marriage there would be no physical Relations that that would be anything other than pornaya because fornication is pornaya adultery is pornaya Going to temple prostitutes and any other kind of prostitutes is pornaya Any other expression in that area is pornaya so because of pornaya's and And it sounds like well you need to get married to avoid pornaya, but what he's basically saying is if it weren't for marriage Any such activity would be wrong, so that's verse 2 and it is Paul's exhortation here at the beginning of this subject you've got to remember. What's the first thing he says it is He says let each man have his own wife and let each woman have her own

husband Now that does not comport with the understanding that later in the chapter.

He's advocating celibacy, or he's advocating remaining unmarried he says If everybody tries to do that it's going to result in multiple pornaya pornaya's Plural it is plural there are so many ways to go astray and only one way to do this area of life Right and that's within marriage and therefore let each man have his wife let each wife have her husband otherwise Everything surrounding that bullseye is out Pornaya's so let the husband render to his wife the affection that is to her likewise also the wife to the husband Then the wife does not have Authority this is exousia this is rulership authority this is Governing this is setting policy. This is exousia are like governmental powers They are spiritual powers that determine the grand scheme and broad scope of things exousia is authority in the sense of You hold an office and you have a rank Exousia is what the centurion had when he says I say to one come and he comes to another go and he goes There is authority and That's the the notion there in verse 3 and 4 Look at verse 5 Do not deprive one another except with consent for a time that you may give yourselves to fasting and prayer and come together again so that Satan does not tempt you because of your lack of self-control We talked about Not depriving we talked about all these conditions with consent for spiritual purposes limited duration So that there is not temptation This is the standard testing tempting word pay rado. We didn't really talk about the last one Because of your lack of self-control Because of your lack of self-control What exactly are we talking about here there is the word here And it is Agkrates ag k r a t e s This is actually agkrasia here a k r a s i a Akrasia Akrasia, I think I put a G in there that we didn't need Now a is the alpha privative that means negative and krasia comes from kratos That's a different kind of power.

Remember there are five power words in Greek you have Exousia which is authority you have kratos, which is another kind you have Words that mean strength you have dunamis And so on but kratos has the idea of Controlling a thing managing a a thing kratos and Krateo the verb this is what you do with your car We're not talking about the laws that govern where cars can drive and when they stop and start and what side of the road Or any of that that would be the authority of the state to say drive on the right side of the road stop at red lights, etc Kratos is who's got the steering wheel? This is and And I've told you maybe not lately, but you haven't lived until you're driving a car and your steering wheel comes loose Which means most of you have never lived It's a rare thing, but it happened to me and with my 1956 Volkswagen bug that had that steering linkage that was to You shaped things like a u-joint but instead of having a metal bearing type of thing like you're like your powertrain has and and many other things this had a disc of leather and That's just how they did it in 1956 and of course I was driving the car in Substantially later years and the leather had dried and gotten stiff and non pliable And I was driving along one day and I went to make a left-hand turn and it's it it turned the tires left and I turned off of a busy road into a parking lot and then it just gave loose and my Steering wheel was just spinning freely and I was in a state of across EIA No control in terms of steering. I did have control for brakes and Thankfully, I had just turned into a parking lot if I had turned in the middle of a busy intersection I would have absolutely cruised into some other car and had a at fault wreck of some sort but

because I turned into a parking lot I Was able to just coast to a stop and I realized that that linkage was was gone So cross EIA crotty Oh crotty's any of your crotty's words have to do with this sort of managing a thing controlling a thing and to have a Prefix on it en This would be inner control n crotty's or egg crotty's that's where I got my G earlier because the word for self-control is Egg it's actually en but because it's before K it turns to a G. So you have egg crotty's egg Crotty's and that and that word group But here he says beginning this concept and this is the first place it shows up Do not deprive one another dot dot dot all of these conditions so that Satan does not tempt you because of your lack of Control because of your lack of control This is the end of verse 5 and it's really the last word in that verse and It is it doesn't have the self portion in it, it's it's not on Egg crotty. Oh, it is just a cross EIA and this word really only occurs two times in Scripture and One of them is Suspect because it's part of a Textual issue and this is Matthew 23 25 where Jesus says woe to you scribes Pharisees Hypocrites for you clean the outside of the cup and of the dish but on the inside they are full of robbery and self-indulgence and There's a there's a split textual problem there.

But the other one is our our passage And Self-indulgence is the one in Matthew 25, but it means lack of control because of your robbery and lack of control and again the self Prefix isn't there So the outside of the cup and the dish Doesn't mean that that because of the inside is full of dead men's bones and such that that they don't have self-control They they lose control in other areas they can lose control in the treatment of other people they can lose control of Situations where they are supposed to be guided by godly principles, and they're not but here Satan The situation can get out of control if you deprive one another for too long It's not necessarily self-control that goes by the board. It is loss of control of the situation and It's unpredictable a lot of things could go wrong and Satan will find some chink in the armor some crack in the dam to exploit if you Deprive one another without meeting these conditions and with and if you don't come together again soon Satan will exploit it. He will test slash tempt Because of Your lack of control there are too many things that you can't control if that goes on too long now What do we what do we say at the outset? What have I repeated? Three times now in the introduction.

This is just one example of an area of life if you depart from the normal and the usual and the proper and what is typical For too long There are times maybe when you forsake the assembling of yourself together with other believers You can do that for a time if you're paying attention to your spiritual paying attention to your spiritual priorities if you are seeking a greater good But it needs to be specifically in the interest of Maybe you have are a part of a fellowship that you really can no longer Conscience that maybe there is teaching you can no longer benefit from maybe there is a situation whether it is personal or Principal that You really have to make a change and so you are going to forsake the assembling of yourself together But you follow these criteria You hopefully have the counsel of other believers that you can bounce this off of and You you get perhaps some affirmation that yes in a situation like that. I would probably do the same thing Somebody who's spiritual judgment you respect So that would be the with consent part there is the agreement You may even need to go Talk to the people in the fellowship and say you know I

I'm not Wanting to give you a wrong impression here. There are reasons why I need to leave, but it's a judgment call there But to give yourself to fasting and prayer this is to respect a higher spiritual priority And it should not be of great duration you need to get back With regular and consistent fellowship with believers of like mind as soon as you can But there are times when you can't but we look to these Guiding principles because if you go too long in an abnormal situation Satan will find a place where you lose control, and he will enlarge and exploit that vulnerability and And one of the reasons that things are given to us as norms they are not laws But it is guidance, and it is healthy to associate with believers who can Clarify for us divine viewpoint who can speak the truth to us in love who can be sounding boards and people who express the truth of the Word of God in their own words and in their own way that maybe the pastor doesn't Clarify and that fellowship is beneficial you can do without that fellowship for a short time, but if you go too long It opens up vulnerabilities So not just in the area of marriage.

This is when God has made a provision as he does with The sexual relations in marriage you can suspend that Temporarily, but it needs to be for good reasons, and it means needs to be of a limited duration You can't make this a policy Within a marriage except by consent for limited time. That's what he says And he says I say this as a concession not as a commandment. What does he mean here? This is not a rule.

You don't have to say okay 43 days Which is 40 days of testing and three days of Fasting and prayer and then and then we'll it's it's not a commandment There's no command that governs this you have to use your judgment. It's a unique and individual in each situation How long is a short time? It depends What kind of fasting and what kind of prayer how long of a fast how much prayer for what purpose it's left to our judgment What do you know for sure? If the situation starts getting out of control in any way or for any reason and you see that this is degrading It is a satanic attack You need to stop whatever that temporary suspension is and get back to the normal whatever it takes So the criteria here is if you're going to deprive look for Vulnerabilities beginning to appear if it goes on too long now He says in verse 8. We're back to this issue of Croteo of control I say to the unmarried and the widows it is good for them if they remain even as I am But if they cannot exercise Self-control now, this is a different derivation from Croteo and and crotties and This does have the n prefix The first one you can lose control of something even outside yourself there could be any area the other person could go out of control You know you it's kind of left to your imagination what You know Satan can can exploit some area where you can't Manage here. It is self-control and this is your n This is actually egg crotty on tie Which is from the verb egg Crotty oh my now.

I've told you before when you see a greek verb with oh my on the end This has middle force and the middle is often reflexive So you have cut through all my plus n so there's a double emphasis on here self-control egg crotty oh my The middle voice the subject acts in his own interest and many times. He's acting on his own self and n means You know pointing inward rather than outward so there's a double emphasis here on self-control in verse 8 So what does he actually

say here in verse 8? remain unmarried, but not if Your self-control becomes an issue Not if your self-control And he says stay as I am the Corinthians know Paul and Paul is unmarried He says I have the right to lead about a wife, but I don't he also says he has a gift. He has a charisma of Celibacy he's he's working up to that here Later on in the chapter, but to Remain as I am and Our word remain mino Is is the word for remain or or maintain the status quo? as I myself But if they do not have the egg crotty oh Mode if they are not able to Control themselves let them marry for it is better to marry than burn Now what are we talking about here keep your finger here and turn over to Galatians chapter 5 The Very next book Galatians chapter 5 verses 22 and 23 There's a whole list of things that are the works of the flesh in verse 19 and following pornaya fornication uncleanness lewdness idolatry sorcery hatred contentions and so on Many of these are what Paul has already addressed in the earlier part of 1st Corinthians right there are jealousies and contentions I Tell you beforehand.

I've told you in times past those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God Doesn't mean they lose their salvation notice. These are practices and based on these practices. They will not inherit this is loss of Possession and opportunity and standing and status and potential in the future kingdoms of God They will not inherit But the fruit of the Spirit is You've memorized this love joy.

Peace long-suffering gentleness goodness faith meekness temperance or in your New King James verse 23 gentleness and Guess what? self-control our word self-control in Crutch you oh my So If you lose this particular Expression of the fruit of the Spirit because you are trying to Remain unmarried Then it is better to marry The fruit of the Spirit is the guiding principle if you are able to have all of those and self-control is is the Sort of the summary item in the list here but it can be impossible to maintain your Fruit of the Spirit in some circumstances. I am in a circumstance where I Can't control myself. What is inner control? What are we controlling? We're controlling thoughts.

We're controlling emotions. We're controlling attitudes We're controlling reactions we are controlling in this context in Galatians 5 our Tendency to produce the works of the flesh So if I lose my self-control, what am I likely to fall into? Pornia Fornication uncleanness lewdness Idolatry sorcery hatred contentions jealousies outbursts of wrath selfish ambitions dissensions heresies Envy murders drunkenness revelries and You notice their murders that seems to be a little bit out of Depth you know that seems to be a much more vicious and serious crime, and it's not in the Great text that seems to be a little bit more pristine I think somebody might have thrown that in because there were a few murders in the congregation. I would cross out murders myself because these are areas of self-control that can be Observed in someone you can observe that they are practicing lewdness Hatred contentions jealousies outbursts of anger selfish ambitions dissensions heresies Envy drunkenness revelries I Tell you beforehand as I told you in times past no inheritance the fruit of the spirit is love joy peace long-suffering gentleness goodness faith meekness humility gentleness and Self-control Against such there is no law and by the way for

such there is no law These are things we cultivate, but we are not under law We are under grace, and it is rare that we have explicit commands to guide us in the church age They do exist Paul is going to mention one here in first Corinthians 7 But we are often guided by principle by the greater good by what condition of? Soul we maintain as we make these decisions and so on so Remain unmarried, but not if see what is he arguing for at the beginning? What is he arguing for in the whole chapter? We saw this last time whatever you've been called in remain in it If you were called a slave remain a slave if you're called as free Then you're still Christ's slave if you were circumcised stay circumcised if you're observing Jewish feasts There's no reason to quit if you're uncircumcised.

There's no reason to get circumcised and start trying to be Jewish whatever Condition God called you in remain in that condition. What what is the exception? When should you make a change? If you can't maintain the fruit of the spirit in that circumstance Now this is you know time to be honest with oneself you can say Oh, I just have no peace unless I divorce my wife and marry my secretary. That's not going to fly This is Guidance that is only going to work for the seeking believer the pistilla believer the faithful Moving toward God desiring to please him in every way asking and seeking and knocking believer If somebody wants to turn this on its head and use it as an excuse They'll find a way to do so and they're gonna have to go be warm be fed we are not of those who fall away unto perdition, but to those who by faith and patience inherit the promises and So this is not a law It is a pursuit and if you are genuinely pursuing a life that pleases God You will do this and if in doing that you can honestly say This condition just does not Allow me to control myself.

I my association with this person constantly leads me into sin and evil Anytime I talk to this person I end up in gossip Anytime I go into this fellowship I sit there and vibrate and it is all I can do to keep from committing multiple mental attitude sins I give you the example of attending a church that you wind up having to leave because most of us have been in that situation so you may be in it now, but hopefully not but In a situation like that That's a time to make a change you can't control What goes on in your own soul because you are being assaulted by something? That is your this is like lot in Sodom He's vexing his righteous soul. Well, that was his choice He chose to live in Sodom and then he's vexed all the time Because of the pernicious evil that he has chosen to surround himself with he should have made a change so What have we seen so far in the chapter in the first part? When he's talking about conditions for marriage and he talks about exousia and authority Anytime authority is present. What is the Flip side of that coin if there is authority there is submission to authority if The wife doesn't have authority over her own body.

She has authority over the husband husband doesn't have authority over the wife. He Over himself he has authority over the wife's Body, and what is the idea here in each case where there is authority on one side. There is submission on the other and So the guiding principle in the first eight or nine verses here is The better path is the path of submission to authority recognizing divinely constituted authority and being submissive the opposite of submission and humility is

Arrogance and God is going to resist the proud He's going to give grace to the humble and it requires humility to be submissive to authority So in the first part of chapter 7, what is our Applicable principle not just in marriage, but in every area of life if we're trying to decide between courses or whether we should make a change and the issue in chapter 7 is Should I make a change? Or should I remain as I am? well, what is the path of Submission this is one not the only criteria if you're getting knocked around by an abusive spouse Submission isn't the the only Resort well, I must be submissive.

So I'll just wait till my other tooth gets knocked out Not at all, but the better path is going to begin with What is the path of submission that's going to be a mark in the column? For either staying as I am or making a change and you've got to look at all of these criteria There's going to be several in this passage Submission is the first one Generally speaking and in this context Loving authority well-meaning authority Beneficent authority because the husband is to love the wife as he loves his own body, right? and so this is submission to Good authority to proper authority to loving authority. That's going to be the better path Secondly the fruit of the spirit which is self-control as long as I can Not stress myself to the point that my self-control no longer functions then I should remain as I am If I can manage this may not be easy may not be fun But unless it just breaks my self-control every single time There are people who can't watch even a PG movie without it Sparking priority and thoughts in their mind if you can't control the thoughts in your mind just because there's something mildly Suggestive on the screen then stop looking at mildly suggestive things if You know and probably especially the older you get Priority and things are just really kind of disgusting it doesn't harm my self-control I just want to find the fast-forward button and get past that so that we can continue the story when there's no issue of self-control, that's then fine What busts your self-control? What does Satan use to deflect you and distract you and drag you down and your self-control can't stand? There's a time to resist the devil And he will flee from you, and there is a time to flee youthful lusts because they get the better of your self-control every time so first criteria Where can I be? submissive to good well-intentioned Properly exercised loving authority divinely constituted authority where is the area of submission I? Want to look for that secondly I want to be in a situation where I am not lot in Sodom Unable to be effective unable to be righteous because my soul is constantly vexed and my self-control constantly fails thirdly we come down to verse 10 in verse 10 Paul says now to the married I command and not just me, but the Lord a Wife is not to depart from her husband and even if she does depart she should consider herself still married She might have to separate, but she does not remarry and a husband is not to divorce his wife That's a command from the Lord. There are areas where we have hard and fast command that thou shalt knots right So when there's a command that pertains Then that's your criteria, and it doesn't you don't look for these other guideposts these other Guidance principles if there's a command you look at the command and and you're done so To the rest verse 12 now in verses 12 through 15.

You've got this situation where you're unequally yoked Do not be unequally yoked with the faithless Paul says in another place if any brother has a wife who is and and my The McReynolds

interlinear, I think has the probably the most helpful single-word Translation here for apostia in this context and that is untrustful Untrustful because this can be Both a technically a believer or an unbeliever in the salvation sense but this is their current state of Trusting of believing are they Growing and you know you're in a sack race here And I talked about that I don't know if people even do it anymore and I could be that some people don't even know what a sack race is But you know what that is you take a burlap bag And you've got a partner and one's got their right leg in it the others got their left leg in it and you become a three-legged Monstrosity trying to run from one end to the other and outrun others who are doing the same thing and you're you're tied together if one Of you falls down the other one's not going anywhere, and you're linked you are yoked you are bound together Inextricably and so Paul says don't be bound to someone who is untrusting in a way that causes you to stumble and fall But here's another passage with a different perspective that says if you find yourself bound to someone in that status but they are willing to Coexist they will go with you. They will not hinder you. They're not going to cause you to stumble not going to cause you to fall they're not going to be constantly attacking and berating and deriding and and Causing your fruit of the spirit to wither and dwindle and perish There they will go along there there have been marriages like this in other contexts where one is Jewish and the other is Catholic and they have kids and they they just find ways to be politic and to be diplomatic and to be flexible and Well, let's wait and see what the kids want to do do they want to go to temple or do they want to go to Mass and we'll let them decide and and we'll give them the experience of both We'll educate them in both faith traditions and and make them aware and as they get older they can make their own decision We won't pressure them, and I'm not going to disrespect your Catholicism.

You're not going to disrespect my Judaism We'll go along to get along. That's a wonderful thing be flexible. It's non-essential for them, especially So if they're willing Then remain remain as you are because there's What is the overall message of the chapter? remain as you are unless Remain in the calling where you're called unless there are good cogent Compelling spiritual reasons to make a change So long as you can respect submission so long as you can exercise your self-control So long as you're not violating an explicit command of scripture verse 10 and here so long as you can maintain peace Pursue peace with all we talked about this before Peace by the way is another fruit of the spirit Well that gets us halfway through the chapter So in any area of life, not just marriage the divine exhortation is don't Get the idea that changing your circumstances is the answer unless The issue to which you need an answer is a real spiritual need I Am unable to Honor the Lord in my life.

I am unable to cultivate and produce the fruit of the spirit in this circumstance and I will not be violating a command of the Lord if I consider a change if I consider a change What kind of change it needs to be one that will enhance? my submission to properly exercised divinely instituted authority I am Going to improve my ability to maintain my self-control I Am going to have both in my life and in the lives of others greater peace Fruit of the spirit these are criteria under which you can consider making a circumstantial change when you're in an employment

situation a schooling situation a marriage situation a dating situation a social sort of association or obligation Different areas of life. This is just one example, but these principles apply to all of them Well that gets us down to verse 17, and we're going to have some additional guidance, so I have a book on my shelf by a man named Gary Friesen called decision-making and the will of God and Sadly he doesn't really take much time with 1st Corinthians, but the Apostle Paul is Basically writing a book for us on decision-making and the will of God we tend to make a decision when we feel like we've come to a fork in the road and We can't just do the Yogi Berra thing and when you come to a fork in the road take it We have to choose am I going to continue here, or am I going to take an exit ramp? Am I going to continue here, or I'm going to take a new road? God is giving us through the Apostle Paul the Principles they're going to be different for each one And that's what he's going to start talking about here beginning at verse 17 And that's what we'll pick up when we come back from the break