

1 CORINTHIANS

The Gospel
in Community

WHEN FAITH AND LIFE COLLIDE

Study 8

**MARRIAGE AND SEX IN THE GOSPEL
COMMUNITY**

I Corinthians 7:1-16

TWO EXTREMES

1 Cor 6: 12 -13 "All things are lawful for me,"Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food



Liberal

1 Cor 7:1 It is good for a man not to have sexual relations with a woman."



Conservative

ASCETISM AND SPIRITUALITY



MARRIAGE AND SEX

1 Corinthians 7:2 (ESV) But because of the temptation to sexual immorality, each man should have his own wife and each woman her own husband.



Does not mean everyone should get married but each married person find satisfaction with his own spouse

MARRIAGE AND SEX

Mutuality in conjugal rights and authority over the body

1 Corinthians 7:3-53 The husband should give to his wife her conjugal rights, and likewise the wife to her husband.

4 For the wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband does. Likewise the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife does.

The issue is one spouse depriving the other
weaponsing sex

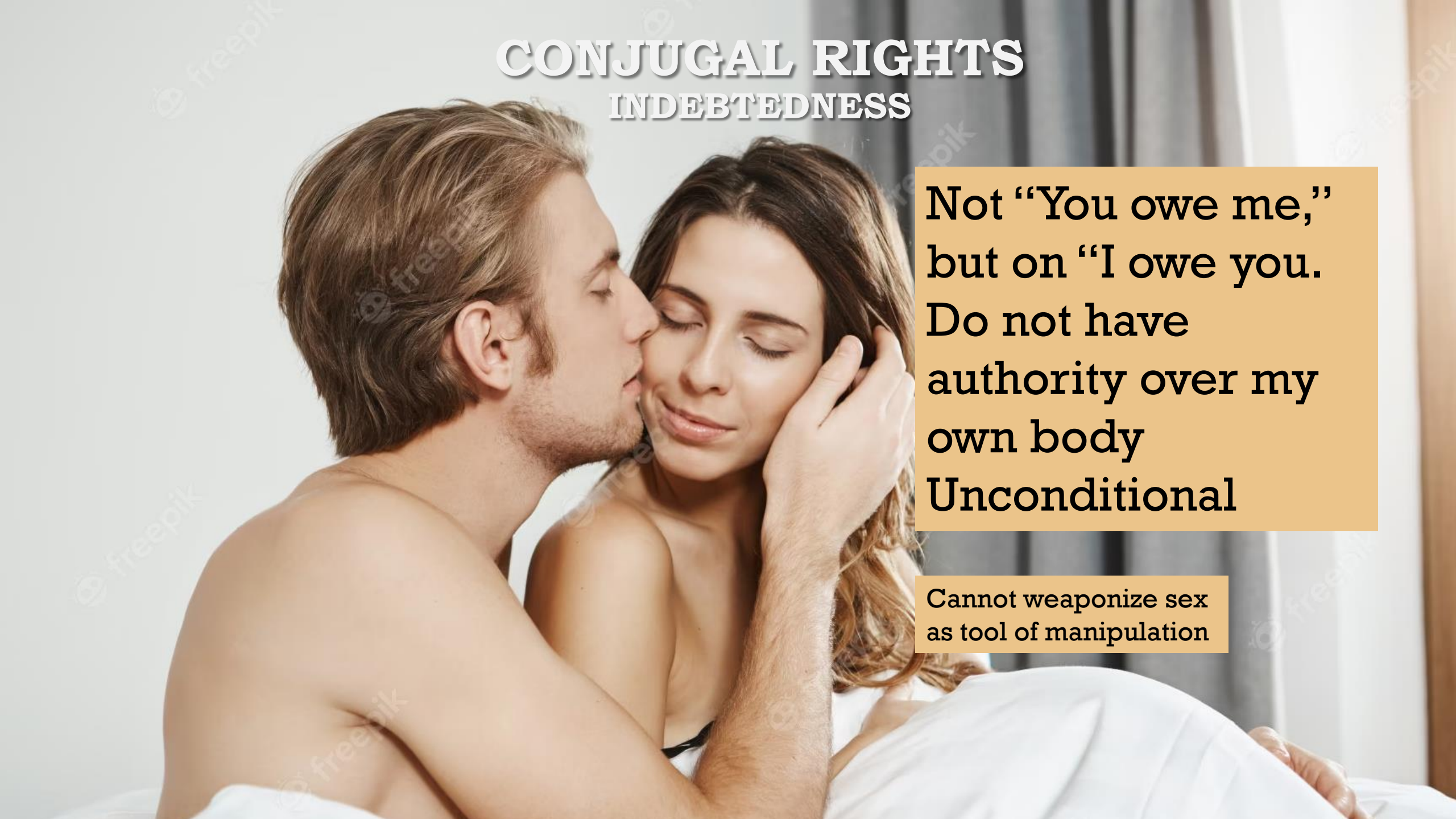
5 Do not deprive one another, except perhaps by agreement for a limited time, that you may devote yourselves to prayer; but then come together again, so that Satan may not tempt you because of your lack of self-control

CONJUGAL RIGHTS

INDEBTEDNESS

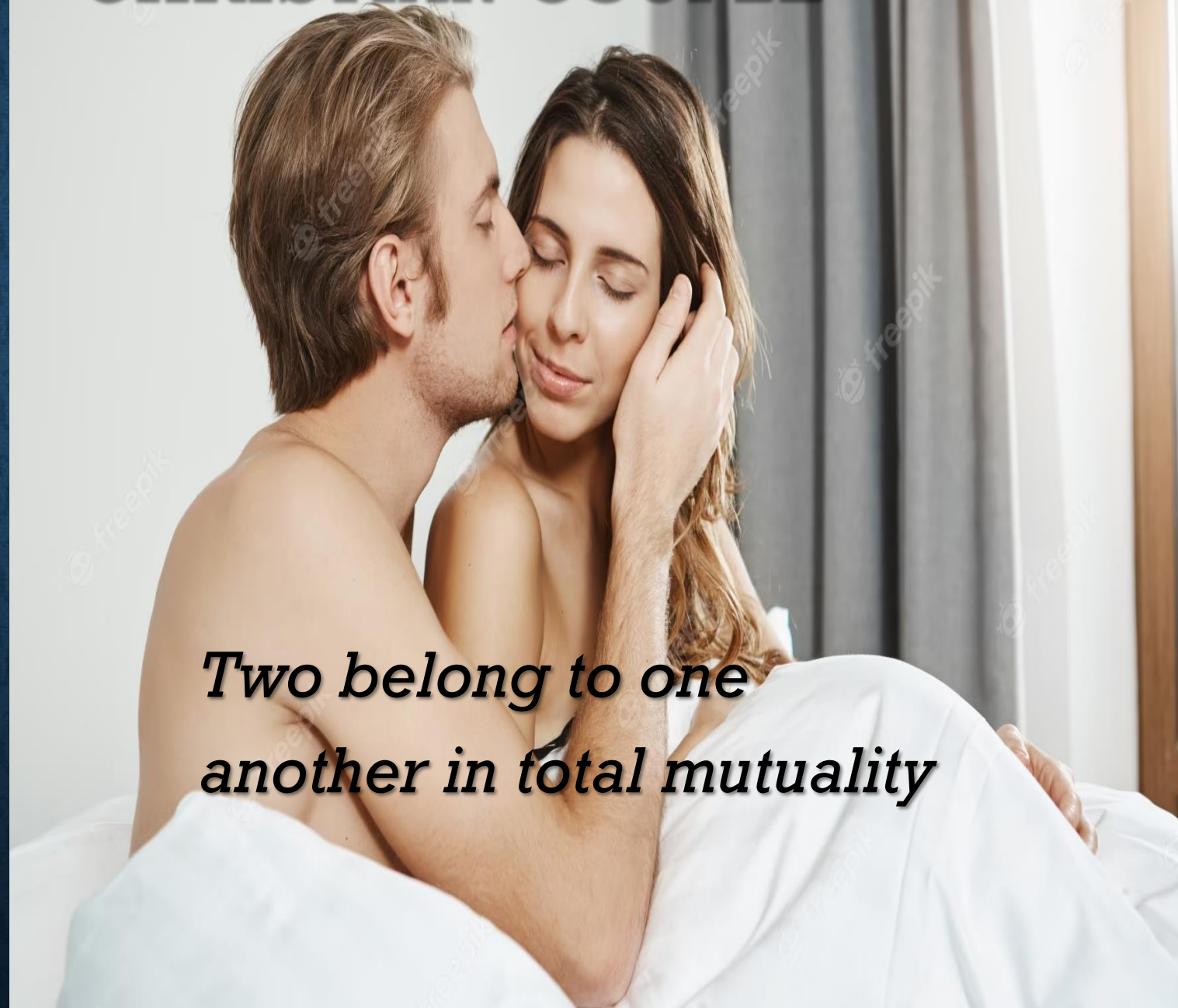
Not “You owe me,”
but on “I owe you.
Do not have
authority over my
own body
Unconditional

Cannot weaponize sex
as tool of manipulation





CHRISTIAN COUPLE




*Two belong to one
another in total mutuality*



**'Denying
husbands sex is
abuse
BBC 27/7/2017**

Che Mohamad Zulkifly
Jusoh from the ruling
Barisan Nasional
coalition

A man and a woman are lying in bed, partially covered by white sheets. The man is leaning over the woman, looking at her with a serious expression. The woman is looking back at him with a similar serious expression. The background is plain white.

start blaming, become
demanding, critical and
resentful

Withdrawal from him

**DESIRE DISCREPANCY
DISORDER**

CORROBORATION FROM SCIENCE

**Sexual communal
strength**



**person's motivation to
meet their partner's sexual
needs**

Muise, A., Impett, E. A., Kogan, A., & Desmarais, S. (2013). Keeping the spark alive: Being motivated to meet a partner's sexual needs sustains sexual desire in long-term romantic relationships. *Social Psychological and Personality Science*, 4, 267-273.

“Our findings suggest that if one partner is interested in having sex, but the other partner isn’t in the mood, being motivated to meet a partner’s sexual needs can benefit both partners. It is very important, however, that this motivation to meet a partner’s needs comes from a place of agency, where people feel that they are able to meet their partner’s needs, and a delight in seeing ones partner happy”

SPECIFIC STRATEGIES IN DESIRE DISCREPANCY

Table 3

Emergent Themes	%	No (n=58)
Communication	36.2	21
Schedule sex/ set frequency goals	20.7	12
Lingerie/sexu clothing	15.5	9
Date night	13.8	8
Start and then get aroused	12.1	7
Toys	10.3	6
Make time alone	10.3	6
Cuddling without sex	8.6	5

Debby Herbenick, PhD, MPH,*† Margo Mullinax, MPH,*† and Kristen Mark, PhD, MPH
Sexual Desire Discrepancy as a Feature, Not a Bug, of Long-Term Relationships: Women's Self-Reported Strategies for Modulating Sexual Desire
Journal of Sexual medicine 2014...DOI: 10.1111/jsm.12625

THE ONLY TIME SEX STOPS

1 Corinthians 7:5 (ESV) Do not deprive one another, except perhaps by agreement for a limited time, that you may devote yourselves to prayer; but then come together again, so that Satan may not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.

6 Now as a concession, not a command, I say this.

LESSON

Importance and centrality of sex

Protection of each other from the dangers of immorality in a godless culture

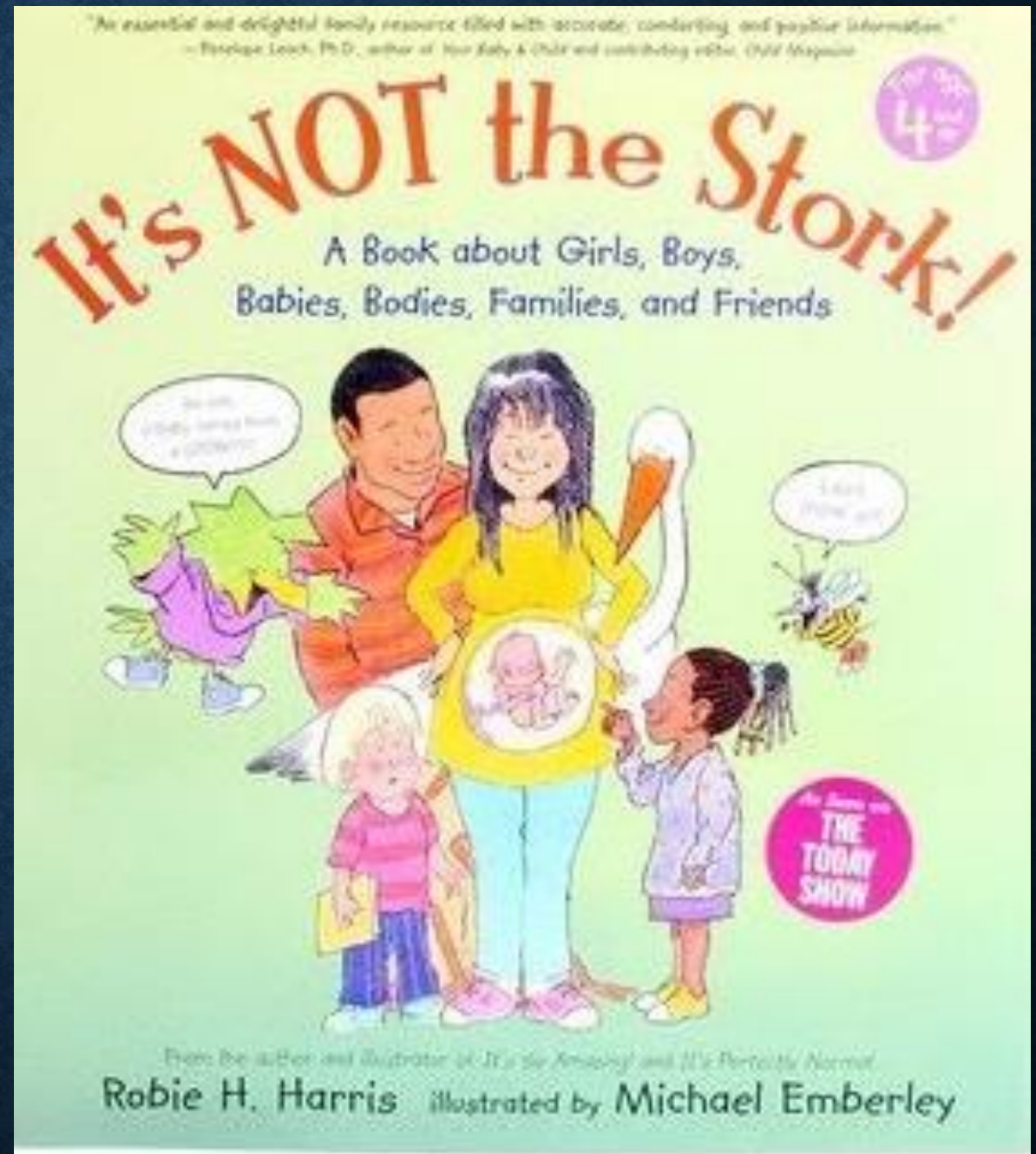
The spouse cannot meet all your needs but there is one need that the only the spouse can uniquely meet

Sex is godliness

AVOID EXTREMES



TEACHING OUR CHILDREN



NO DIVORCE

1 Corinthians 7:10-11 (ESV) To the married I give this charge (not I, but the Lord): the wife should not separate from her husband 11 (but if she does, she should remain unmarried or else be reconciled to her husband), and the husband should not divorce his wife.

NO REMARRIAGE

1 Corinthians 7:10-11 (ESV) To the married I give this charge (not I, but the Lord): the wife should not separate from her husband 11 (but if she does, she should **remain unmarried or else be reconciled to her husband**), and the husband should not divorce his wife.

THE ISSUE IS THE SANCTITY OF MARRIAGE

Mark 10:11-12 (ESV) And he said to them, “Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her, 12 and if she divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery.”

RE-MARRIAGE ONLY BY DEATH OF SPOUSE

1 Corinthians 7:39-40 (ESV) A wife is bound to her husband as long as he lives. But if her husband dies, she is free to be married to whom she wishes, only in the Lord. 40 Yet in my judgment she is happier if she remains as she is. And I think that I too have the Spirit of God.

If the Christian husband and wife cannot be reconciled to one another, then how can they expect to become models of reconciliation before a fractured and broken world?

Gordon Fee New International Commentary

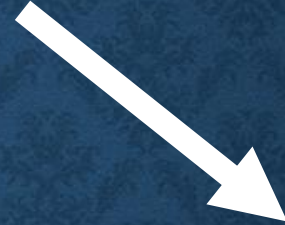
MAINTAIN YOUR POSITION AT CONVERSION

1 Corinthians 7:12-13 (ESV) To the rest I say (I, not the Lord) that if any brother has a wife who is an unbeliever, and she consents to live with him, he should not divorce her. 13 If any woman has a husband who is an unbeliever, and he consents to live with her, she should not divorce him.

**THE RATIONALE FOR REMAINING
GRACE OF GOD AT WORK THROUGH THE
BELIEVER TOWARD MEMBERS OF HIS/HER
OWN HOUSEHOLD**

1 Corinthians 7:14-15 (ESV) For the unbelieving husband is made holy because of his wife, and the unbelieving wife is **made holy** because of her husband. Otherwise your children would be unclean, but as it is, they are holy.

SANCTIFIED---MADE HOLY



Moral -Ethical-
salvation

Potential for
realizing salvation

Not likely -we cannot
save another person

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JEWISH RITUAL CLEANLINESS



BACKGROUND

1 Cor 7:1 It is good for a man not to have sexual relations with a woman.”



PAGAN WILL DEFILE BELIEVER



PAUL'S POSITION

Romans 11:16 (ESV) If the dough offered as first fruits is holy, so is the whole lump, and if the root is holy, so are the branches.

THE CONCEPT

Instead of the pagan defiling the believer the
believer sanctifies the pagan

The consecration of the part ..sanctifies the
whole

SANCTIFIED---MADE HOLY

**Moral -Ethical-
salvation**

**Potential for
realizing salvation**

GRACE OF GOD AT WORK THROUGH THE BELIEVER TOWARD MEMBERS OF HIS/HER OWN HOUSEHOLD

1 Corinthians 7:14-15 (ESV) For the unbelieving husband is made holy because of his wife, and the unbelieving wife is **made holy** because of her husband. Otherwise your children would be unclean, but as it is, they are holy.



Outside the covenant

DIVORCE PERMISSIBLE

1 Corinthians 7:15-16 (ESV) But if the unbelieving partner separates, let it be so. In such cases the brother or sister is not enslaved. God has called you to peace. 16 For how do you know, wife, whether you will save your husband? Or how do you know, husband, whether you will save your wife?

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

1 Corinthians 7:15-16 (ESV) But if the unbelieving partner separates, let it be so. In such cases the brother or sister is not enslaved. God has called you to peace. 16 For how do you know, wife, whether you will save your husband? Or how do you know, husband, whether you will save your wife?

**. IN SUCH CASES THE BROTHER OR
SISTER IS NOT ENSLAVED**

Marital bond

No longer
bonded to
spouse
Free to remarry

**Obligation to maintain
the marriage**

No longer obligated to
maintain the marriage

REMARRIAGE IS PROHIBITED

1 Corinthians 7:10-11 (ESV) To the married I give this charge (not I, but the Lord): the wife should not separate from her husband 11 (but if she does, she should remain unmarried or else be reconciled to her husband), and the husband should not divorce his wife.

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PERSISTENT MAINTENANCE OF MARITAL BOND IN ORDER TO SAVE THE SPOUSE

If the unbelieving spouse leaves then one is no longer obligated to maintain the marital bond to save them

1 Corinthians 7:15-16 (ESV) But if the unbelieving partner separates, let it be so. In such cases the brother or sister is not enslaved. God has called you to peace. 16 For how do you know, wife, whether you will save your husband? Or how do you know, husband, whether you will save your wife?

**GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR
LIVING UNDER THE GOSPEL**

1 Corinthians 7:17-24 (ESV) 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.

18 Was anyone at the time of his call already circumcised? Let him not seek to remove the marks of circumcision. Was anyone at the time of his call uncircumcised? Let him not seek circumcision. 19 For neither circumcision counts for anything nor uncircumcision, but keeping the commandments of God.

20 Each one should remain in the condition in which he was called. 21 Were you a bondservant when called? Do not be concerned about it. (But if you can gain your freedom, avail yourself of the opportunity.) 22 For he who was called in the Lord as a bondservant is a freedman of the Lord. Likewise he who was free when called is a bondservant of Christ. 23 You were bought with a price; do not become bondservants of men. 24 So, brothers, in whatever condition each was called, there let him remain with God.

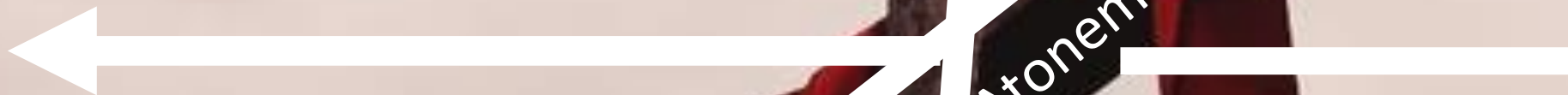
THE GOSPEL REARRANGES PRIORITIES

Religious markers

Social Situation

THREE DIMENSIONS OF GOSPEL WISDOM

Resurrection/forward-back.



Incarnation/upside-down



Atonement/inside-out



ATONEMENT -INSIDE OUT

Religious markers

- Circumcision
- Baptism
- Church attendance
- Membership
- Good works

ATONEMENT -INSIDE OUT

Obediance as a
response to grace

but keeping the
commandments of
God.

INCARNATION-UPSIDE DOWN

Slave

For he who was called in the Lord as a bondservant is a freedman of the Lord. Likewise he who was free when called is a bondservant of Christ. 23 You were bought with a price; do not become bondservants of men



Bought with a price
Slave of Christ

Slave

Free

bondservant of Christ. 23 You were bought with a price; do not become bondservants of men.

FREE TO SEEK SOCIAL IMPROVEMENT

21 Were you a bondservant when called?

Do not be concerned about it. (But if you can gain your freedom, avail yourself of the opportunity.)

But not to be overly pre-occupied with social change

OVER-RIDING CONSIDERATION

1 Corinthians 7:29-31 (ESV) This is what I mean, brothers: the appointed time has grown very short. From now on, let those who have wives live as though they had none, 30 and those who mourn as though they were not mourning, and those who rejoice as though they were not rejoicing, and those who buy as though they had no goods, 31 and those who deal with the world as though they had no dealings with it. For the present form of this world is passing away.

DOESN'T MATTER WHICH JOB



an issue of ambition or promotion
the issue is overwhelming concern
the issue is being defined by it

A circular mirror with a gold-colored rim is placed on a chessboard. Inside the mirror, a white king chess piece is visible. Outside the mirror, a white pawn chess piece is visible. The background is a dark, textured surface.

Defines us

- Job
- Money
- Status
- Academic credentials
- Achievements

EXTRA TIME

