

Concluding Summary – The Sevenfold Marriage

Chapter 11

Audio Lesson: FAM11



Objective: To further understand the sexual relationship in marriage and the spiritual foundation that makes true oneness possible.



The wife's body does not belong to her alone but also to her husband. In the same way, the husband's body does not belong to him alone but also to his wife.

—1 Corinthians 7:4

“In everything, do to others what you would have them do to you.”

—Matthew 7:12

1 Corinthians 7 is one of the finest passages in Scripture on the intimacies of marriage. Paul discusses how husbands and wives can satisfy each other and how mutual agreement is a very important principle in having a fulfilling physical relationship. The key is in becoming other-centered. As the Golden Rule says, *“In everything, do to others what you would have them do to you”* (Matthew 7:12). When we are able to live with this perspective, our marriage and other relationships become much more satisfying and fulfilling.

The biblical model for marriage is Christ and the Church. A marriage is meant to be a total communion, a spiritual oneness of two whole personalities, pictured in the communion between Christ and His Bride, the Church. So physical unity also involves a spiritual quality in the relationship. That spiritual quality is the unselfish, others-centered love of the risen, living Christ. The only way we can have that kind of love is by having a vital relationship with Jesus and letting His Spirit live within us. If we are spiritually united with God and have invited Him to rule our lives and fill us with His Spirit, we are able to love our spouse in the way God desires. With this spiritual foundation, we can experience marriage as God designed it to be.

1. True or false? The Bible forbids remarriage after a spouse dies.
2. True or false? According to the Bible, no one can serve God effectively in ministry and also be married.
3. True or false? The Bible allows divorce when an unbelieving spouse chooses to leave a believing spouse.
4. True or false? Marriage is a serious decision that should be made very carefully and prayerfully.



5. True or false? The Golden Rule—treating others as you would want them to treat you—is a very helpful approach to any area of marriage.
6. True or false? When the Bible speaks of the oneness between husband and wife, it is referring only to their physical relationship.

Unless otherwise noted, choose one answer for each question.

7. Which of the following are obstacles to a couple's oneness? (*choose all that apply*)
- Not being selfish
 - Lack of communication
 - Misunderstanding
 - Love
 - A healthy sexual relationship
 - Incompatible values
 - Children
8. Which of the following is an example of having incompatible values? (*choose all that apply*)
- Arguing about how to raise the children
 - Frequent disagreements about how to use money
 - Criticizing each other's desires and goals
 - All of the above
9. How can we love as fully as God wants us to?
- Through our own natural strength and ability
 - By expressing our own opinions constantly
 - By having sex as often as possible
 - By depending on His Spirit within us to love others through us

10. Why did Jesus die on the cross for us?
- a. To bridge the chasm between God and us
 - b. To be a good example as a martyr
 - c. To show us how to justify ourselves by good works
 - d. To demonstrate that all of life ends in futility
11. What role does Jesus play in our lives when we accept Him by faith?
- a. He gives us good advice.
 - b. We follow the parts of His teaching that we like.
 - c. He sits on the throne of our life.
 - d. He serves as a good example for us to follow if we want to.
12. How can we know we are saved?
- a. We are saved if we feel saved every day.
 - b. We are saved when we believe the facts of the gospel, trust Jesus to save us, and invite Him to come into our life.
 - c. We are saved only if we have a mystical experience when we pray to Jesus and are baptized.
 - d. We can know we are saved if we never sin again after we invite Jesus into our life.



Do you regularly depend on Jesus to live His life through you, showing love to others in His strength? If so, how has this affected your marriage and other relationships? If not, what decisions do you need to make to have Jesus live and rule in your life?



Thank God for the free gift of eternal life and for the Spirit of Jesus who lives within those who believe. Ask Him to help you live in His strength and, through your life, to show others the love that He has for them. If you have never accepted Jesus as your Savior, pray to receive His forgiveness and invite Him to live in you and sit on the throne of your heart. Thank God for God's plan for your life and your family.



Going Deeper

1. What is Pastor Woodward's opinion on remarriage for widow(er)s? On which Scripture does he base it? _____

2. How is the "golden rule" to be applied in the area of marriage and sex? _____

3. Do you and your spouse have the habit of being honest with each other, or are there areas you dare not go? _____

4. Are your values, such as how you spend your money and leisure time, in agreement? _____

5. Pastor Woodward says that sex is either 10% of the joyful oneness in your marriage, or 90% of the discord. Which would you say it is for you, and why? _____

6. Which of the obstacles to oneness (communication, compatibility, love, understanding, sex) may be operative in your marriage? _____

7. If there are areas of discord, do they relate to lack of spirituality or oneness with Christ of either/both partner(s)? _____
