

Sunday, October 2, 2016—I Corinthians 7:4-5: Defraud Yet Not

### Introduction

- Given the sensitive subject matter of chapter 7, I want to say the following at the outset.
  - I am going to teach the details of the passage regardless of how uncomfortable it makes me.
  - I am not setting myself up as the perfect husband nor am I setting up Becky and I as the standard of a perfect marriage. That being said, I can only speak out the experiences I have had as a husband.
  - I am going to try and strike a balance between sharing things that have helped Becky and I, without sharing with you all the private details of our life together.
  - I have discussed what is permissible and allowable to talk about with Becky in advance.
  - I am going to endeavor to be real and frank about things without be graphic.
- Last Sunday during our time together we began looking at I Corinthians 7:4. In doing so we observed the following.
- In verse 4 we observed a third reciprocating instruction. Neither the wife nor the husband has power over their own body, according to verse 4.
  - Verse 2—men and women both avoid fornication by getting married.
  - Verse 3—husband and wife are each to render due benevolence unto each other.
- The verb “power” both times it is used in verse 4 is a present active indicative which indicates the truth of the statement while Paul is in the process of penning it. The underlying Greek word only occurs 4 times in the Greek text supporting the KJB.
  - Luke 22:25—“exercise authority upon”
  - I Corinthians 6:12—“brought under the power”
- The wife and the husband “hath not power” over their body “but” the other does.
  - Wife’s Body—power belongs to her husband.
  - Husband’s Body—power belongs to his wife.

- This is a clear teaching that sexual intimacy in a marriage is not the sole domain and jurisdiction of one spouse over the other. The wife’s body belongs to the husband likewise the husband’s body belongs to the wife.
- Ephesians 5:31—Paul’s instructions in I Corinthians 7 follow logically form the Biblical definition of marriage. The result of “leaving” and “cleaving” is the establishment of a “one flesh” relationship. In that “one flesh” relationship neither party possess the right nor the authority to lord over or control the nature of the sexual intimacy in their marriage.
- Sin and its resulting selfishness causes problems when it comes to physical intimacy in marriage. God did not create sex to be a weapon to demean, control, and manipulate your spouse.
- Regarding verse 4, I offered the following instruction to/for husbands last week.
  - Ephesians 5:28-29—husbands need to take into account the emotional needs of their wives and not just their own physical urges and desires. Taking the time to build emotional intimacy with your wife is going to go a long way towards foresting the desire within her for physical intimacy.
  - Husbands, sex for your wife more emotional than physical.
  - I Peter 3:7—stop trying to logically figure out your wife. Rather focus on “giving honour unto your wife, as unto the weaker vessel.”
  - Ephesians 5:25—within the context of what we are talking about in I Corinthians 7 the husband is to offer his wife the same loving headship that Christ gives the church. The love that Christ demonstrated on behalf of the church is not an ego centric me first type of love.
  - Ephesians 5:33—the central need of a wife is to know that her husband loves her beyond anything else. This is the type of love that values, esteems, and places the needs and well-being of one’s wife above his own.
  - I Corinthians 7:4—since the central tendency of husband is going to be to run roughshod over things he needs to remember that his wife has power over his body not him.

### **I Corinthians 7:4**

- Ephesians 5:33—ladies the central need of your husband is to have your respect. A husband wants to feel like he is his wife’s hero and champion that no matter what anyone else thinks about him she will always love him.

- Genesis 3:16-17—because of the circumstances surrounding the entrance of sin into the world God ordained that the husband should rule over his wife. As a result, the natural tendency of the wife is going to be to rebel against the authority God has placed in her husband.
- Generally speaking, just as it is the man’s tendency to run roughshod over things woman try to get what they want by manipulating things and controlling circumstances.
- Ladies, your husband will not compete with you in your marriage he will check out mentally and emotionally before he will compete with you.
- I Corinthians 7:4—ladies you don’t have power over your body your husband does. A wife should not be using sexual intimacy as a tool to manipulate her husband.
- “The use of the adversative “but” emphasizes the fact that each spouse in the marriage is to passively yield his or her own body to the control of the other spouse. In this relationship there is mutual submission to the control of the opposite spouse. A marriage which functions on this plane will meet both the physical and emotional needs of both the husband and the wife.” (Campbell, 109)

### I Corinthians 7:5

- **Defraud ye not one the other, except *it be* with consent for a time, that ye may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again, that Satan tempt you not for your incontinency.**
- *Defraud ye not one the other*—the verb “defraud” is once again a present active imperative which means that Paul is commanding the husband and wife not to “defraud” each other.
- The English verb “defraud” carries the following meanings according to Noah Webster’s *American Dictionary of the English Language* (1828).
  - To deprive of right, either by obtaining something by deception or artifice, or by taking something wrongfully without the knowledge or consent of the owner; to cheat; to cozen; followed by of before the thing taken; as, to defraud; a man of his right.
  - To withhold wrongfully from another what is due to him.
  - To prevent one wrongfully from obtaining what he may justly claim.
  - To defeat or frustrate wrongfully.
- Given the context, it is clear that the verb “defraud” in verse 5 is referring to sexual intimacy in marriage.

- Verse 2—the man and woman get married to avoid fornication.
- Verse 3—the husband and wife are to “render unto” each other “due benevolence.”
- Verse 4—the husband nor the wife has power over their own body “but” the other spouse.
- Neither party is to purposefully withhold sexual intimacy from their spouse. As I already said, neither spouse is to use sex as a weapon in their marriage to punish, manipulate, or get even with their spouse. The word “defraud” indicates a premeditated action.
- *except it be with consent for a time*—here Paul offers an exception to the instruction offered in the first phrase. The exception is in the form of “consent.”
  - Agreement of the mind to what is proposed or state by another; accord; hence, a yielding of the mind or will to that which is proposed.
  - Accord of minds; agreement; unity of opinion.
  - Agreement; coherence; correspondence in parts, qualities, or operation.
- The implication is clear, if there is going to be an “defrauding” of sexual intimacy in a marriage it needs to be agreed upon by both husband and wife for a particular duration of time.
- *that Satan tempt you not for your incontineny*—practically, there is much to unpack in this verse but for now just understand the reason why this instruction is given. The reason why a cessation of sexual intimacy within a marriage is to only be by “consent for a time” is because if it’s not Satan will take advantage of the opportunity to sexual tempt your spouse.
- I Corinthians 7:2—in the context Paul instructed men and woman to get marriage to avoid fornication. What happens when a duly married spouse is defrauded without “consent for a time” there is going to be a temptation to look elsewhere to get that need meet.
- According to Noah Webster the English word “incontinent” carries the following meanings:
  - Want of restraint of the passions or appetites; free or uncontrolled indulgence of the passions or appetites, as of anger.
  - Want of restraint of the sexual appetite; free or illegal indulgence of lust; lewdness; used of either sex, but appropriately of the male sex. incontinence in men is the same as unchastity in women.

- When one spouse or the other purposely defrauds the other of physical intimacy over a prolonged period of time without mutual consent they are actively via their behavior allowing the adversary to gain a foothold in their spouse's life.