

Relationship Matters



Week Nine

inTro



Read This Week's Passage:
1 Corinthians 7:1–16

RELATIONSHIPS MATTER

“If someone says, ‘I love God,’ and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen?” (1 John 4:20). Our relationship with God is tested and strengthened through our human relationships. In other words, our Christianity finds its hands and feet in our human relationships. Without the human interaction, religion is just theory.

It is no wonder that the devil attacks relationships. A breakdown in human relationships spells disaster for our relationship with God. For instance, an absentee father makes it difficult for his child to conceive of God as a faithful Father. And an indulgent mother sets up her child to think any difficulties in life mean that God has forsaken them.

So the devil attacks human relationships as a means to destroy our relationship with God. The principal human relationship between man and woman is the object of his special interest. If he can distort that relationship, then he limits our ability to perceive God, since the image of God is reflected in the combination of male and female. He targets the marriage relationship; he attacks father/daughter and mother/son relationships; and he corrupts any interaction between men and women.

Wherever a healthy relationship exists, it provides an avenue to knowing God. A robust friendship illumines the Friend who sticks closer than a brother, and marriage, the most intimate of human relationships, provides a glimpse of the Trinity itself. This week we consider aspects of the intimate relationship.



Write out 1 Corinthians 7:1–16 from the translation of your choice. If you're pressed for time, write out 1 Corinthians 7:3–9. You may also rewrite the passage in your own words, outline, or mind map the chapter.



Go back to your scribed text and study the passage.

Circle repeated words/phrases/ideas

Underline words/phrases that are important and have meaning to you



Draw **Arrows** to connect words/phrases to other associated or related words/phrases

What special insights do your marks seem overall to point to?



Memorize your favorite verse in 1 Corinthians 7:1–16. Write it out multiple times to help with memorization.

If you had to choose, would you rather be married to an unbeliever or remain single and why?

What are other principles of marriage from this passage?



Read more at www.inverseible.org/will9-3



After looking at your scribed and annotated text, what special insights do your marks overall seem to point to?



What questions emerge after studying this passage? What parts are difficult?

What other principles and conclusions do you find?

Married or single, we are all sexual beings. What insight does Scripture offer for how we are to understand and experience our sexuality?



Read more at
www.inverseible.org/will9-4



What relationship do the following verses have with the primary passage?

- 2 Samuel 11
- 1 Thessalonians 4:3-7
- Hebrews 4:14-16



What other verses/promises come to mind in connection with 1 Corinthians 7?

Review your memorized verse from 1 Corinthians 7:1-16.

A large grid of small dots for writing answers.



Where do you see Jesus in
1 Corinthians 7:1-16?



Have you experienced intimacy
with Jesus?

How do you see Jesus differently
or see Him again?

Prayer: How do you respond to
seeing Jesus in this way?



Read more at
www.inverseible.org/will9-6



Review the memory verse.
How does it apply to your
life this week?



After this week's study of the
chapter, what are personal
applications you are convicted
of in your life?

What are practical applications
you must make in your social life?

A large grid of small dots for writing answers to the questions above.



Read more inSight from the
Spirit of Prophecy at
www.inverseible.org/will9-7



Share insights from this week's memory verse and Bible study as well as any discoveries, observations, and questions with your Sabbath School class (or Bible study group). Consider these discussion questions with the rest of the group.



Should a believer stay in an abusive relationship with an unbeliever?

How can single persons safeguard against marrying someone who has the form of godliness but is not truly converted?

What encouragement could you give to someone whose spouse has backslidden?

In what ways do single people experience and express intimacy?

What should single people do with their sexual desires?

How should the church relate to those who are divorced?

How do we find healing for our brokenness?