HOOKING UP

We live in an age when we are starting to need apps to do anything. We need some apps to find transport from one place to another. We need apps to find food, order food, deliver food, and rate food. We need apps to work, exercise, sleep, and even relax. Is it a surprise then that among some of the most popular apps are those dedicated to finding sexual partners? Now that it's understood as a biological need, one only needs to swipe a finger and a tryst is populated on one's schedule with all the customizable preferences, durations, and options.

Ironically with all the channels for sensuality available, trends are actually showing that premarital sexual experiences are either declining or being postponed to later ages, perhaps due to the ubiquity of technology. Regardless, these practices existing in the secular world should be of no surprise to us today, as Scripture states in Ephesians 4:17–19. But there are a growing number of people who ask whether the Bible really purports to be against premarital sexual experiences altogether.

As premarital sex has become an accepted way of life in most industrialized nations, and promoted as the norm in media, these ideas are sought to be rationalized and woven into the Christian community. But does the Bible change humanity or does humanity change the Bible? Furthermore, who has the courage (or, as some may say, the stupidity) to speak against premarital sex or other dominant social trends? The purpose of this lesson is exactly that, to study what the Bible says, what God says, about premarital sexual experiences.
Write out 1 Corinthians 7:1–9 from the translation of your choice. You may also rewrite the passage in your own words, or 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 7:1–9. Write it out multiple times to help with memorization.

Why is premarital sexuality so prevalent?

How is the biblical standard of virginity different from the secular double standard?

Read more at www.inversebible.org/sex10-3
After looking at your scribed and annotated text, what special insights do your marks seem to point to overall?

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

What other principles and conclusions do you find?

How does cohabitation only partially fulfill the needs for sexual intimacy?

Read more at
www.inversebible.org/sex10-4
What relationship do the following verses have with the primary passage?

Deuteronomy 22:20, 21
1 Corinthians 6:15–20
1 Timothy 1:10
Hebrews 13:4
Ephesians 5:1–5
1 Thessalonians 4:3–8
John 8:11

What other verses come to mind in connection with sex before marriage?

Review your memorized verse from 1 Corinthians 7:1–9.
Meditate on 1 Corinthians 7:1–9 again and look for where Jesus is.

How can Jesus be made the central Officiant of our relationships today?

What is He saying to you through these texts?

How do you see Jesus differently or see Him again?

Prayer: How do you respond to seeing Jesus in this way?
Review the memory verse. How does it apply to your life this week?

After this week’s study of 1 Corinthians 7:1–9, how is God speaking to you about you?

How is He speaking to you about others?

Read more inSight from the Spirit of Prophecy at www.inversebible.org/sex10-7
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.

What are the positive aspects of preserving sexual purity and virginity until marriage?

How has the church addressed premarital sexual activity?

Why is the decline of premarital sexual activity still not good news?

How is the individual’s spiritual development connected to his or her sexual behavior?

What counsel can we share with singles living in this sexually open world today?

How is virginity much more than the state of the body?

Why are there different standards of sexual purity for men and women?

How is “test-running” sexual relationships detrimental to couples?