

**Marriage and Following Jesus**  
Core Group Discussion Guide  
10-05-2017

**Message Overview:**

Because we are sticking to the text, this message from I Corinthians will cover a lot of territory with regard to marriage. A lot of the position paper the MCA Elders have worked on the last several years found its roots in I Corinthians 7. In this passage Paul gives a lot of instructions about marriage from teaching on sexual dynamics within marriage to how couples deal with one spouse coming to Christ while the other doesn't. This morning's message will provide us opportunity to clarify what we believe about marriage's permanence and how we deal with difficult marital situations. But the message should do more than just give us "guidelines." It should help us understand the heart of Jesus and how he thinks about our families.

**Text:**

- I Corinthians 7:1-24

**Questions for Discussion:**

1. Read the passage as a group
2. As a group, create a list of 5 principles from I Corinthians 7:1-24 that are relevant to our lives. (Principle: a fact or command stated or implied in this passage of scripture.) Be prepared for disagreement about whether or not we understand Paul's instruction correctly on a particular principle.
3. Notice the principles having to do with marriage: How do these principles make marriage work best?
4. This passage clearly indicates that God desires marriages to be permanent. When we see a struggling marriage, why is it that we often think that divorce is the answer instead of allowing God's grace to restore that marriage?
5. Have you seen God redeem a marriage you thought was hopeless? What was the result?
6. How does the good news of Jesus give hope to those who have gone through divorce (both adults and their children)?
7. How can the church better serve those who have experienced divorce?