Marital Problems Are Prevented When We Obey God's Commands
1 Cor 7:1-24 Pastor Robert Brandhagen

I. Fornication Prevention—Spouses Commanded: Possess, Fulfill, & Do Not Deprive
Now for the matters you wrote about: “It is good for a man not to have sexual relations with a woman.”

But since sexual immorality is occurring, each man should have sexual relations with his own wife, and each woman with her own husband. 4The husband should fulfill his marital duty to his wife, and likewise the wife to her husband. 5The wife does not have authority over her own body but yields it to her husband. In the same way, the husband does not have authority over his own body but yields it to his wife. 6Do not deprive each other except perhaps by mutual consent and for a time, so that you may devote yourselves to prayer. Then come together again so that Satan will not tempt you because of your lack of self-control. 7I say this as a concession, not as a command. 8I wish that all of you were as I am. But each of you has your own gift from God; one has this gift, another has that.

Fornication is prevented when spouses help each other; singles have a solution for passion as well.

II. Passion Prevention—Singles Commanded: Marry and Do Not Burn
Now to the unmarried and the widows I say: It is good for them to stay unmarried, as I do. 9But if they cannot control themselves, they should marry, for it is better to marry than to burn with passion.

Spouses battle sexual sin by not depriving each other; singles battle sexual sin by getting a spouse; but what should spouses do when the marriage goes bad?

III. Separation Prevention—Spouses Commanded: Do Not Separate, But If So, Stay Single, Or Reconcile
To the married I give this command (not I, but the Lord): A wife must not separate from her husband. 11But if she does, she must remain unmarried or else be reconciled to her husband. And a husband must not divorce his wife.

Spouses, do not deprive each other; singles do not burn; spouses, do not divorce; finally, stick with your present status.

IV. Variation Prevention—"The Rest" Commanded: Do Not Seek a Status Change
12To the rest I say this (I, not the Lord): any brother has a wife who is not a believer and she is willing to live with him, he must not divorce her. 13And if a woman has a husband who is not a believer and he is willing to live with her, she must not divorce him. 14For the unbelieving husband has been sanctified through his wife, and the unbelieving wife has been sanctified through her believing husband. Otherwise your children would be unclean, but as it is, they are holy. 15But if the unbeliever leaves, let it be so. The brother or the sister is not bound in such circumstances; God has called us to live in peace. 16How do you know, wife, whether you will save your husband? Or, how do you know, husband, whether you will save your wife? 17Nevertheless, each person should live as a believer in whatever situation the Lord has assigned to them, just as God has called them. This is the rule I lay down in all the churches.

The Sermon-in-a-Sentence: When we obey God's commands on marriage, marital problem prevention is in place.

The Big Story: The Lord God established marriage (Gen 2), Moses regulated marriage (Deut 24), Malachi has questions and commands to lead you out of marital unfaithfulness that destroys your worship (Mal 2), Jesus proclaims the Creators' intention for marriage and our corruption of it (Matt 19); and Paul—inspired by God—perfectly summarizes it all.

The Big Question: Will you follow Paul's commands for the prevention of fornication, passion, separation, and variation?
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The Big Question: Will you ____________ Paul’s commands for the prevention of fornication, passion, separation, and variation?