

# Awkward Conversations

1 Corinthians 7:1-5; 10-24

Week of June 4, 2023

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## BELONG

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**Ask this Ice Breaker Question:** With summer months arriving, what are you most looking forward to and what are you least looking forward to?

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## BELIEVE

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**Have someone in your group read aloud: 1 Corinthians 7:1-5; 9-24**

Leader Context (not to be read aloud):

*Paul is giving instructions to the church with an assumption that these individual believers are experiencing community and belonging in the local church. These are not instructions given to those who are living isolated lives.*

*His rule is "remain where you are." In other words, don't let a belief in Christ and participation in a Christian community be an excuse to leave the station, the relationship, or the commitment.*

**Ask these questions to prompt group discussion:**

**1. What do you think about Paul's teaching on the moral goodness of abstinence?**

Leader Context (Not to be read aloud):

- He promotes the abstinent life as a good life (in community).
- He concedes that romantic sexual urges may drive people into physical relationships.
- If you must be romantically physical, then get married (in community).

**2. What do you make of Paul's rule to remain where God has called you:**

- a. in marriage to an unbelieving spouse?**
- b. In circumcision?**
- c. In your employment as a servant?**

Leader Context (Not to be read aloud):

- The hope in staying married to an unbelieving spouse is that the spouse would believe The Gospel.
- The clarification against circumcision is Paul's consistent teaching that you don't change who you are from the outside in - and that Paul's insistence that Jewish customs no longer apply as commands for Gentile believers.
- The issue of bond-servanthood is tricky because of our modern recoiling to notions of slavery, specifically colonial slavery practices. But the most common parallel to this type of cultural arrangement would have been an Employer-employee relationship.

**3. Given what Paul says about sexuality and marriage, in what ways would you adjust the advice you give to dating couples who are considering marriage?**

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**BECOME:**

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**Ask this question:**

- 4. In what ways has this week's group discussion challenged your understanding in any of these key areas that Paul mentions?**
- sexuality*
  - marriage*
  - personal spiritual disciplines*
  - employment*

**Close by praying together.**