**Sermon Notes**

**“Thriving in a Spiritually-Mixed Marriage.”**

1 Corinthians 7:12–16

12 To the rest I say this (I, not the Lord): If any brother has a wife who is not a believer and she is willing to live with him, he must not divorce her. 13 And if a woman has a husband who is not a believer and he is willing to live with her, she must not divorce him. 14 For 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. 15 But 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. 16 How do you know, wife, whether you will save your husband? Or, how do you know, husband, whether you will save your wife?

**1. Don’t \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (v. 12-14)**

*2 Corinthians 6:14–17
14 Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness? 15 What harmony is there between Christ and Belial? Or what does a believer have in common with an unbeliever? 16 What agreement is there between the temple of God and idols? For we are the temple of the living God. As God has said: “I will live with them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they will be my people.” 17 Therefore, “Come out from them and be separate, says the Lord. Touch no unclean thing, and I will receive you.”*

**2. Seek the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of your marriage (v. 15)**

*Jeremiah 29:4–9*

*4 This is what the Lord Almighty, the God of Israel, says to all those I carried into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: 5 “Build houses and settle down; plant gardens and eat what they produce. 6 Marry and have sons and daughters; find wives for your sons and give your daughters in marriage, so that they too may have sons and daughters. Increase in number there; do not decrease. 7 Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the Lord for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper.” 8 Yes, this is what the Lord Almighty, the God of Israel, says: “Do not let the prophets and diviners among you deceive you. Do not listen to the dreams you encourage them to have. 9 They are prophesying lies to you in my name. I have not sent them,” declares the Lord.*

**3. Follow \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (v. 15-16)**

*John 21:21–22*

*21 When Peter saw him, he asked, “Lord, what about him?” 22 Jesus answered, “If I want him to remain alive until I return, what is that to you? You must follow me.”*

*Philippians 2:12–15
12 Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling…Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky 16 as you hold firmly to the word of life.*

**Questions for Discussion**

1. What new or fresh-to-me insight did you gain from this message? How do you plan to respond to it?

2. Which of Jeff’s three main points did you find most personally challenge? Which one did you find most helpful as it relates to encouraging friends and family members who are in spiritually-mixed marriages?

3. How has this sermon changed how you would pray as a member of a spiritually-mixed marriage?

4. 1 Peter 3:1-4. What principles can you derive from this passage regarding how Christians are to seek to influence their spouse? Do you think these principles apply only to Christian wives? Why or why not?

5. Is there someone in your life you feel could benefit from hearing this message? How could you share it with them?

6. How do you plan on responding to this message this week?