

Paul and sex – in Paul's day – sexual behavior attracted legal attention – Emperor Augustus attempted to regulate adultery – saying that an unfaithful wife be divorced but didn't not punish husbands who had sexual relations with unmarried women. Jewish law at the time defined adultery in terms of the wife's infidelity but not the husband's as long as woman was unmarried – b/c polygyny was allowed. The husband's authority over the wife's body was presumed by Roman law, but not the wife's authority over the husband's body – a position advanced by Paul. Rabbinic law gave women some rights over husband's body – esp to sexual relations; divorce was easily attained and tolerated by Roman citizens; but Mark 10:2-12 bans it; Jewish attitudes about divorce varied; Celibacy was cultivated by some Essenes – Jesus praised those who made themselves eunuchs for the kingdom of heaven. ...in light of Paul's expectation of Christ's return, he more concerned about changes in marital status than marital status per se. His teachings inspired 2nd century celibacy movement and virginity was seen as a virtue. (JANT page 298)

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Read 1 Cor 6:12-20 = body *is time*

7:1-7 = sexuality in marriage

7:8-16 – on divorce

IF TIME – 7:17-40 = on virgins, married and unmarried

EXCERPTED DRAFT NOTES
FROM REV KATHLEEN OWENS'
TRAVELS & THEOLOGY OF PAUL, Pt III

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