1. **1 Corinthians 7:1-3**

* Why does Paul recommend a “man should have his own wife, and every woman her own husband”?
* Who is responsible in the relationship to serve their spouse and “fulfill” their “duty”?
* Does this type of relationship sound just, explain why or why not?

1. **1 Corinthians 7:4-6**

* Who has authority over the other in this circumstance, the “wife” or the “husband”?
* **Galatians 3:27-28** then read the **footnote** too.
* Does the reading from **Galatians** seem to agree with the directive Paul is giving in **1st** **Corinthians**, please share what you think with the group?
* **Ephesians 5:21**
* Who is called to be “subordinate” here, wives or husbands?
* What is the purpose of being “subordinate” according to Paul?
* **Ephesians 5:22-24**
* How should a wife “be subordinate” to her husband, give an example?
* Paul relates the wife’s actions, to the church’s actions, explain how they can be similar.
* **Ephesians 5:25-27**
* Even though Paul has already stated both parties should be subordinate to one another, he does not reiterate it here again, but rather offers more advice for the “husband”, can you describe what is expected of the “husband” here in layman’s terms (simple terms)?
* What does Paul mean when he states, “Christ loved the church and handed himself over for her”?
* How can a husband do the same for his wife, please share your advice?
* **Ephesians 5:28-33**
* How should a husband “love” his wife?
* How “should” a wife act towards her husband?
* Do you think most married couples today in the world heed the advice of Paul and treat one another this way, please share your thoughts?
* Reflect on **verse 5** of **1st Corinthians**, why do you think Paul is concerned about how wives and husbands offer themselves up to one another, considering this is a very private matter?
* What is the “concession” Paul is speaking about (see the **footnote** for **verse 6**).
* **Catechism 1659-1664**
* Has our conversation and opinions thus far seemed to align with both the scripture and the **Catechism,** share your opinion and explain how they have agreed or disagreed?

1. **1 Corinthians 7:7**

* What does Paul mean when he states, “I wish everyone to be as I am”?
* Is this “wish” of his a requirement, explain why or why not?
* What is Paul speaking about when he states, “each has a particular gift”, is he saying that the ability to remain “celibate” is some special gift from God, or something else?
* **Matthew 19:9-12**
* What is an example of someone “incapable of marriage because they were born so”?
* What is an example of someone “incapable” of marriage because “they were made so by others”?
* What is an example of someone “incapable” of marriage “because they have renounced marriage for the sake of the kingdom of heaven”?
* **Catechism 915-916, 1579, 1599**
* Do you feel this verse in **1st Corinthians** and **Matthew** support the teaching of the **Catechism** on consecrated life?
* Share something you heard today that was meaningful to you with the group.