Reflection Questions for November 1, 2009
The Dysfunction of False Holiness: 1 Corinthians 7

1. In 1 Cor 7:1, Paul quotes from the Corinthian letter, "It is good for a man not to touch a woman." In the subsequent verses, does Paul seem to agree or disagree with this statement?

2. In v. 4, Paul makes an interesting claim about the relationship between husband and wife with respect to their bodies. What implications does this claim carry for married Christians?

3. With respect to sex within a marriage, what commands does Paul issue to the Corinthians in vv. 2-5a? What concession does he make in 5b?

(Over)

4. In vv. 7–9 and 25–28, although he does not oppose their entering into marriage, Paul seems to express a preference for life-long celibacy for those Corinthians who were single. What was Paul's rationale for this (hint, see vv. 29–35), and is it as applicable now as it was in 52 AD?

5. What does Paul say about Christians and divorce in vv. 10–11? What about the case of mixed marriages (vv. 12–16)? How might these passages inform Christians today?

6. Paul lays down a general principle for the Corinthians in vv. 17–24. What is this principle, and do you think it is still applicable today?