

Wednesday Evening Bible Study

January 19, 2022

Series - *The Life and Writings of the Apostle Paul*

The Corinthian Letters

The Long Letter (First Corinthians)

Text – 1 Corinthians 7

Chapter Seven – Question and Answer Time - *Rules Regarding Relationships*

Memory Verse – 1 Corinthians 7:23

“Ye are bought with a price; be not ye the servants of men.”

Introduction

This chapter introduces a new section where Paul will deal with questions that the members of the church had. Chapter seven specifically deals with marriage and divorce. These questions are valid because a new problem had arisen regarding those who had become believers but were married to an unbeliever. What were they to do? Paul here answers this question and more. This area has been hotly debated by good churches for a long time. No one teacher has a corner on the truth. There are some issues in the Scripture that are not crystal clear. It is important that each Bible student applies himself to diligent, prayerful study of the Word to determine where you stand on this and other issues.

I. I’m Single; Should I Get Married? (vs. 1 – 9)

A. It is good to stay single (v. 8)

Single people can devote more time to the things of the Lord. (vs. 32 – 35) However, can a single man be a pastor or a deacon? (1 Timothy 3; Titus 1: 5 – 9)

B. It is also good to be married. (v. 2; 9)

1. Marriage is ordained by God (Genesis 2:18 – 25)
2. Marriage was confirmed by the Lord (Matthew 19:1 – 6)

“Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing, and obtaineth favour of the LORD.” (Proverbs 18:22)

Forcing people to remain unmarried will cause some to become impure in their lives. (v. 2; 9)

“Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge.” (Hebrews 13:4)

“Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their

conscience seared with a hot iron; Forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth. For every creature of God is good, and nothing to be refused, if it be received with thanksgiving:” (1 Timothy 4:1 – 4)

C. If You’re Going To Be Married, Have a Good Marriage. (vs. 3 – 6)

1. Husbands and wives should not hold back in the area of intimacy, except by mutual consent. This is a huge problem in most marriages.
2. Only marry “in the Lord” (v. 39; 2 Corinthians 6:14 - 18)

II. I’m Married; Should I stay with Him/Her? (vs. 10 – 24)

A. To the Married Believers (vs. 10 – 11)

1. Wives – don’t leave your husband. If it is impossible to stay with your husband, separate but do not re-marry.
2. Husbands – don’t divorce your wife. (Malachi 2:14 – 16)

Note- Every commandment and recommendation in the Word of God is written to believers. Unbelievers don’t care what God says and are going to do what they want anyway.

B. Clarification for Mixed Marriages (vs. 12 – 16)

1. The believer should stay with the unbeliever.
2. The home of the believer is sanctified by the believer, and so is the unbelieving spouse. (See 1 Peter 3: 1 – 4)
3. If the unbeliever leaves, however, the believer is not in bondage (a servant to)

C. Important Digression (vs. 17 – 24)

This portion of Scripture declares that the most important thing in life is not our relationship with other people, but our relationship and service to God. Paul develops this thought even further in the next section, but it is important to remember that Paul is writing with the expectancy of the imminent return of the Lord; and he is also in a time of intense persecution against believers.

III. I’m Betrothed; Should I Get Married? (vs. 25 – 38)

A. The Parents Agreement - Betrothal (vs. 25 – 28)

A betrothal was similar to an engagement, but stronger in that it was a legally binding contract between the family of the bride and the family of the groom. (See Matthew 1:18 & 19) The

question here involves two people who are not completely married yet, but they are betrothed to each other.

B. The Present Distress (v. 26; vs. 29 – 31)

Paul is looking toward a time of intense persecution; and warning that marriage may be very difficult during times like these. (See Matthew 24:15 – 22)

C. The Priority (vs. 32 – 35)

1. The Lord (your personal relationship)
2. The Family (your provision for them)
3. The Church (your participation and service)

Paul is stating in these verses that the unmarried person has less *distraction* and more time to devote to the service of God.

D. The Father's Permission (vs. 36 – 38)

The context here seems to be speaking of the virgin's father making a decision regarding whether his daughter will marry or not; though it is possibly speaking of the man that is betrothed.

IV. My Spouse is Dead; Can I Re-Marry (vs. 39 – 40)

Paul explains here particularly that the marriage covenant is fulfilled by the death of the spouse. The widow or widower is free to re-marry another believer.

See Matthew 20:27 – 36

See 1 Timothy 5: 3 – 16