

1 CORINTHIANS

SEEING EVERY PART OF LIFE THROUGH THE GOSPEL

14 Mar 2021

Chapter 7:1-16

Verse of the Day:

God has called you to peace (1 Cor 7:15b).

Review: Who, What, When, Where, Why?

What's Going On Here?

After his plea for unity (chapters 1-4) and his discussion of moral problems (chapters 5-6), Paul proceeds in the third portion of his letter (chapters 7-10) to answer questions submitted to him by the Corinthians. The questions dealt with the application of Christian freedom. In chapter 7 the apostle dwells on matters pertaining to the question whether or not to marry. His advice represents indirect counseling, since he leaves it to the individual to decide the question on the basis of the Word of God, his or her own ability or inability to cope with sexual desires, and the unsettled conditions prevailing in the Roman Empire.¹

<p>Principles for Marriage</p> <p>7 <u>Now concerning</u> the matters about which you wrote: <i>“It is good for a man not to have sexual relations with a woman.”</i> ²But because of the <u>temptation to sexual immorality</u>, each man should have his own wife and each woman her own husband. ³The husband should give to his wife her <u>conjugal rights</u>, and likewise the wife to her husband. ⁴For the wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband does. Likewise the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife does. ⁵<u>Do not</u> deprive one another, except perhaps by agreement for a limited time, that you may devote yourselves to prayer; but then come together again, so that Satan may not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.</p> <p>⁶Now as a concession, not a command, I say this. ⁷I wish that all were as I myself am. But each has his own gift from God, one of one kind and one of another.</p>	<p>Ch 7 moves from addressing concerns of sexual immorality (1 Cor 5 & 6) to addressing the concerns of ascetic celibacy</p> <p>v2: c.f. AC XXIII par 1-3</p> <p>v3: conjugal rights: <i>opheile</i> – obligation; debt (c.f. Romans 13:7)</p> <p>v3-4: What Biblical understanding about the nature of the marriage relationship is stated in this passage? (next c.f. Ephesians 5:22–33, how does this refine your answer?)</p> <p>v2 & 5: What awareness of human nature is Paul revealing in these verses?</p> <p>v6-7: Although marriage is God's design as part of His creation, it is not commanded that anyone marry. What reasons might someone have for choosing to remain unmarried?</p>
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¹ Engfehr, Lois M. (1997). *God's Word for Today: 1 Corinthians* (p. 36). St. Louis: Concordia Pub. House. Reproducible by purchaser only. © 2009 Concordia Publishing House.

<p>⁸ To the unmarried and the widows I say that it is good for them to remain single, as I am. ⁹ But if they cannot exercise self-control, they should marry. For it is better to marry than to burn with passion.</p> <p>¹⁰ To the married I give this charge (not I, but the Lord): the wife should not separate from her husband ¹¹ (but if she does, she should remain unmarried or else be reconciled to her husband), and the husband should not divorce his wife.</p> <p>¹² To the rest I say (I, not the Lord) that if any brother has a wife who is an unbeliever, and she consents to live with him, he should not divorce her. ¹³ If any woman has a husband who is an unbeliever, and he consents to live with her, she should not divorce him. ¹⁴ For the unbelieving husband is <u>made holy</u> because of his wife, and the unbelieving wife is <u>made holy</u> because of her husband. Otherwise your children would be unclean, but as it is, they are holy.</p> <p>¹⁵ But if the unbelieving partner separates, let it be so. In such cases the brother or sister is not enslaved. <u>God has called you to peace.</u> ¹⁶ For how do you know, wife, whether you will <u>save</u> your husband? Or how do you know, husband, whether you will <u>save</u> your wife?</p>	<p>v8-9: Consider 1 Timothy 5:9–14 (especially v 14): How does this verse help you to understand more fully Paul's overall attitude toward marriage?</p> <p>Describe some life situations today in which you think a couple should remain unmarried or one where a couple should marry despite practical disadvantages.</p> <p>c.f. Deuteronomy 24:1–4: If a Christian does separate or divorce Paul, referencing Matthew 5:31–32; 19:3–12, calls for that person to remain single or, if possible, to be reconciled to the separated spouse (v. 11a). In your opinion, what reasoning lies behind this direction?</p> <p>v14: made holy: Sanctified ≠ Justified, c.f. v16 v14: c.f. 1 John 4:4–12; How is the spouse made holy?</p> <p>v14: children e.g. Acts 16:1; 2 Timothy 1:5 & 3:14–15</p>
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