

1 CORINTHIANS

SEEING EVERY PART OF LIFE THROUGH THE GOSPEL

21 Mar 2021

Chapter 7:12-24

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>¹² To the rest I say (<u>I, not the Lord</u>) 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. 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>Live as You Are Called</p> <p>¹⁷ Only let each person lead the life that the Lord has assigned to him, and to which <u>God has called him</u>. This is my rule in all the churches. ¹⁸ Was anyone at the time of his call already circumcised? Let him not seek to <u>remove the marks</u> of circumcision. Was anyone at the time of his call uncircumcised? Let him not seek circumcision. ¹⁹ For neither circumcision</p>	<p>v12: Speaking with Apostolic authority (c.f. Luke 10:16 & Matthew 10:40–41)</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> <p>v17: called – <i>kaleo</i> – call; name; summon;</p> <p>v19: keeping the commandments – can you work your way to salvation (c.f. Galatians 5:1–15)?</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>counts for anything nor uncircumcision, <i>but keeping the commandments of God.</i> ²⁰ Each one should remain in the condition in which he was called. ²¹ Were you a bondservant when called? Do not be concerned about it. (But if you can gain your freedom, avail yourself of the opportunity.) ²² For he who was called in the Lord as a bondservant is a <u>freedman</u> of the Lord. Likewise he who was free when called is a bondservant of Christ. ²³ You were <u>bought with a price</u>; do not become bondservants of men. ²⁴ So, brothers, <u>in whatever condition each was called</u>, there let him remain with God.</p>	<p>v22: freedman: c.f. Gal 5:1</p> <p>v23: also 1 Cor 6:20: What differences do v23 and 6:20 emphasize?</p> <p>v24: “Bloom where you are planted”</p> <p>How would you compare Paul’s arguments in v17-24 with the current trends of a “prosperity gospel?”</p>
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Good Works an Unnecessary necessity (c.f. James 2:14–26 and FC IV)

Luther: “Faith, however, is a divine work in us which changes us and makes us to be born anew of God, ... O it is a living, busy, active, mighty thing, this faith. It is impossible for it not to be doing good works incessantly. It does not ask whether good works are to be done, but before the question is asked, it has already done them, and is constantly doing them. Whoever does not do such works, however, is an unbeliever. He gropes and looks around for faith and good works, but knows neither what faith is nor what good works are. Yet he talks and talks, with many words, about faith and good works. ... Thus it is impossible to separate works from faith, quite as impossible as to separate heat and light from fire.”²

² Luther, M. (1999). *Luther’s works, vol. 35: Word and Sacrament I*. (J. J. Pelikan, H. C. Oswald, & H. T. Lehmann, Eds.) (Vol. 35, pp. 370–371). Philadelphia: Fortress Press.