

Series "Called To Be Saints"
"Marriage For Keeps"
1 Corinthians 7:1-16
Part-12

Paul now takes up one of the questions regarding marriage
(1 Corinthians 7:1, 25)

1. GREETING — 1:1-9

2. REPROOF: THE REPORT OF SIN IN THE CHURCH — 1:10-6:20

3. INSTRUCTION: THE REPLY TO THEIR QUESTIONS — 7:1-16:12

I want to begin this chapter with 4 observations:

1. The Circumstances Of The Corinthians Is Important: 7:26,29

**2. 1 Corinthians 7 Does Not Cover All Questions Regarding Marriage
And Singleness: (Not Exhaustive)**

**3. 1 Corinthians 7 Teaches That Our Relationship With Jesus Is The
Most Important Of All Relationships:**

4. Paul Teaches Both Married Or Unmarried Can Serve The Lord:

Thought of Our Passage: "Whether Our Gift Is To Be Married Or Single, We Are
To Be Faithful In Fulfilling God's Call For Our Lives."

1. Verses 1-7 Marriage And Intimacy

2. Verses 8-9 Unmarried And Widows

3. Verses 10-11 Marriage And Believers

4. Verses 12-16 Marriage And The Non-Believer

1. Verses 1-7 Marriage And Intimacy

1 Corinthians 7:1 Now (Context) - Paul has just spoken about
immorality, the improper use of the body. **1 Corinthians 6:12-20**
The body is not a toy but a temple. Now Paul begins to answer questions
that the church submitted to him.

concerning the things about which you wrote,
We don't have this letter.

1 Corinthians 7:1-24 Marital problems, **7:24** Virgins,
8:1 Food offered to idols, **11:2** Responsibilities of women in the church,
11:17 The Lord's Supper, **12:1** Spiritual gifts,
15:1 The doctrine of the resurrection, **16:1** How to give.

Verse 1 For Singles: it is good for a man not to touch a woman. touch – *"stimulation of the physical organs through sexual embrace"*

touch a woman *is referring to having sex. Sex outside of the bonds of marriage*

NLT 1 Thessalonians 4:3-6

Exodus 20:14 "You shall not commit adultery. Extension of the 7th Commandment.

"Is celibacy [remaining unmarried] more spiritual than being married?"

1 Corinthians 7:6-7; Matthew 19:10-12; Genesis 2:18

You do not need to be married to be a whole person. Colossians 2:10

Verse 2 Marriage Is Usually Necessary:

1 Corinthians 7:2 But because of immoralities, literally, *"on account of the fornication's (plural)"* marriage is "to avoid fornication, sexual need is met in marriage"

each man is to have his own wife, and each woman is to have her own husband. This verse makes it clear that God does not approve either of polygamy, extramarital or premarital or homosexual "marriages."

Verse 3 Marital Partners Are To Meet The Sexual Needs Of Each Other: 1 Corinthians 7:3 The husband must fulfill his duty to his wife,

duty – benevolence; *goodwill, responsibility.* It speaks of the sexual union of marriage being a constant part in the marriage.

Sex in marriage is a tool to build with but it can also be used as a weapon to fight with. 1 Thessalonians 4:6

Verse 4 Marital Partners Belong To Each Other: 1 Corinthians 7:4

Verse 5 Marital Partners May Temporarily Abstain From Sexual Relationships: 1 Corinthians 7:5 That sex is not to be used as a weapon in the marriage.

for a time so that you may devote yourselves to prayer, The spiritual must govern the physical; because of your lack of self-control. 1 Thessalonians 4:6

Verses 6-7 Permitted Or Commanded: 1 Corinthians 7:6 But this I say by way of concession, not of command.

Paul knew the difference between inspired advice and divinely imparted directives.

1 Corinthians 7:7 Yet I wish that all men were even as I myself am. These were Difficult times, persecution and coming out of paganism.

However, each man has his own gift from God, the word gift - *charisma*

one in this manner, and another in that. Each person has their own calling in this life.

2. Verses 8-9 Unmarried And Widows

1 Corinthians 7:8 But I say to - shows a change in direction. Paul now offers some general principles to the unmarried and to widows.

Unmarried - including Widowers and to widows

that it is good for them if they remain even as I.
(Personally, good not moral)

1 Corinthians 7:9 But if they do not have self-control,
Dwelling on aloneness and being single!

let them marry; not meant for singleness. **for it is better** (better not commanded) **to marry than to burn with passion.**

3. Verses 10-11 Marriage And Believers

1 Corinthians 7:10 not I, but the Lord, Paul speaks divine truth!

Paul gives 4 directives from God to married believers.

- 1. that the wife should not leave her husband** (Believers) **leave** is "*leave by means of divorce*" same as what Jesus gave. **Matthew 5:32; 19:3-9; Mark 10:2-12; Luke 16:18**
1 Corinthians 7:11
- 2. (but if she does leave, she must remain unmarried,**
- 3. or else be reconciled to her husband),** make the marriage work.
- 4. and that the husband should not divorce his wife.** The husband should not initiate divorce.

4. Verses 12-16 Marriage And The Non-Believer

1 Corinthians 7:12 Verses – 12-13 The Marriage Should Continue: But to the rest I say, not the Lord, - Jesus never covered believer with non-believer.

that if any brother has a wife who is an unbeliever, - came to the Lord after marriage

1 Corinthians 7:39; 2 Corinthians 6:14

consents – *"a joyful approval, a approval together to applaud, partnership"*

1 Corinthians 7:13 The unsaved husband is willing to stay married to his Christian wife

Verse 14 Reason For Continuing The Marriage: 1 Corinthians 7:14 Unsaved Husband Has Been Graciously Set Apart By God:

Sanctified – *"to make holy, purify or consecrate; (mentally) to venerate"*

Unsaved Children Have Been Graciously Set Apart By God: for otherwise your children are unclean, but now they are holy.

Verses 15-16 Reason For Ending The Marriage: 1 Corinthians 7:15 (Desertion)

under bondage - The deserted Christian partner is now free to remarry

1 Corinthians 7:16 God could save your spouse

Application:

- 1.** Through The Marital Union Of Husband And Wife, It Is God's Plan To Meet The Sexual Needs Of Both Husband And Wife.
- 2.** Marriage And Singleness Are Both Gifts From God; Each Person Must Determine As To Which Gift God Has Given Us.
- 3.** In The Marriage Between Believer's, God's Plan Is That They Not Divorce. If They Do Divorce, They Are Either To Reconcile Their Marriage Or Remain Single.
- 4.** In A Marriage Between A Believer And A Non-Believer, God Graciously Allows The Unsaved Spouse And Children To Witness God's Grace In Action. There Is The Hope That They Will Be Saved.