

Questions About Marriage to An Inspired Apostle (1 Cor 7)

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Introduction: Where do you seek the answers to the questions of life?

A. The *priorities* of a spiritual man are seen here.

1. We must *first seek* God's word. (Psa 119:103-105)
2. We then seek the council of spiritual men. (1 Cor 6:5)

B. The Corinthians knew who to write about their problems! (1 Cor 7:1; 11:1)

1. The remainder of the book is Paul's *answers to a series of questions*.
2. *Chapters 1-6* was in response to a report from the house of Chloe. (1:11)
3. This is why there are *rapid changes* in the subject matter in the book.
4. We will divide this chapter by asking four questions.

I. Is it Advisable to Marry? (V1-9)

A. Consider the *wisdom of God's provisions*. (Heb 13:4)

1. While the satisfaction of our desires are provided for in God's will, it is possible that we *lose the right to marry* or the full privileges of marriage.
2. A person does not *automatically* have the right to marry because he "cannot exercise self-control" (1 Cor 7:9)
3. It is wrong for a marriage to become nothing more than a house keeping relationship! We can play a role in *driving a mate to adultery*. (Mt 5:32)
4. Remember, it is *never impossible* to do right and forsake wrong! (1 Cor 7:11, 19)

B. What is "*good*", what is *a concession*, and what is *a commandment*?

1. While everything Paul wrote is inspired, you could categorize what he writes in this chapter into four categories:
 - a. A *command* of God. (v10)
 - b. That which *is good or a concession* for certain circumstances. (v1, 6, 8)
 - c. That which the Lord *addressed* in his personal ministry. (v10)
 - d. That which the *Lord did not reveal* in his personal ministry (v12)
2. As in any passage note the context carefully. (Ex. The 3 "W's")
 - a. Who *is speaking*. Who *is being spoken to*. What is *the occasion*?
 - b. This is God's word and every word is there for a reason! These words are *given to all generations*. (Acts 2:39; 1 Cor 14:37)

C. Marriage *is a choice* that can be taken or not taken. (1 Cor 7:8-9)

1. We *need wisdom* in our choices. Is God really first?
2. Single people do not need to *marry out of pressure* of men!
3. This is *not an unqualified statement* of the right to marry. (1 Cor 7:10-11; 1 Cor 6:13-14)

II. What about divorce and desertion among Christians and among Christians that are married to unbelievers? (7:10-16)

- A. Consider Jesus *universal statements* on marriage. (7:10-11; Mt 19:6-9; 5:32)
 - 1. “Depart” is the same verb in Mt 19:6 + Mk 10:9. This *means divorce*.
 - 2. This text *does not justify divorce!* (Mt 5:32)
- B. How does this apply to *believers married to unbelievers*? (1 Cor 7:12-16)
 - 1. We cannot divorce our mate just because they are not a believer. (7:12)
 - 2. This relationship is *not sinful!* (7:13)
 - 3. A Christian however is never under bondage *to follow the unbeliever instead of Christ!* (7:14-15)
 - a. Rather than being a “Pauline priviledge” for remarriage, this is describing a bondage that a Christian *was never and will never be under!*
 - b. There are other men who *reject Jesus* when He says “except.”
 - 4. There is power in the example of a Christian in marriage. (1 Pet 3:1-2)
 - a. It takes a faith that will *put God first!* If you had such a faith before you marry, would you marry an unbeliever?
 - b. Most “Christians” that marry unbelievers *follow them and not the Lord.*

III. What about other relationships we had before becoming a Christian? (7:17-24)

- A. God does not expect you to give up that *which is not sinful* or to sin in giving up that *which God has bound you!*
 - 1. This is *taught everywhere!* (1 Cor 7:17; 4:17; 11:16; 14:33-34)
 - 2. God *does not command circumcision*. What then should we do? (1 Cor 7:18; Gal 5:1-4, Gal 5:6)
 - 3. What about *slavery*? (1 Cor 7:21-22)
 - 4. Our real danger is giving up our liberty to follow men! (1 Cor 7:23)
- B. We can remain in *all lawful relationships!* (1 Cor 7:24)

IV. What about widows and the unmarried? (7:25-40)

- A. Divine *judgment* here can be disregarded. (1 Cor 7:25-26)
 - 1. Here it is inspired judgment. Still *you can say no!* (1 Cor 7:26, 28)
 - 2. How is one *bound and loosed* in marriage? (Rom 7:1-5; Mt 19:9)
 - 3. Suffering can *change one’s perspective* on what will last! (1 Cor 7:29-31)
- B. There is *an advantage* of being single! (1 Cor 7:32-35)
- C. There are *important considerations* before marrying! (1 Cor 7:36-38)
- D. What about a Christian widower remarrying? (1 Cor 7:38-39)

Conclusion: Let us carefully follows God’s law and wisdom in all relationships.