

Mandates to the Married

(1 Corinthians 7:8-11)

Some wish for the 'good ole days'

- 2 Sam.6:16-20
- 2 Sm.11
- Mal.2:14-16
- Mt.19:3-7
- Jn.8:1-4...
- 2 Co.12:21
- 1 Co.7, questions about marriage / morals
 - 7:1-7, how to avoid temptation
 - 7:8-16, protection in marriage

I. Unmarried and Widows (8-9)

Assumption

“Unmarried includes ALL divorced people”

“Since they have no mate and are unmarried,
all the divorced can remarry.”

- Cf. Ac.8:22 – repent and _____ ?
- Acts 8 = Christians; not so Acts 2:38
- 1 Co.7:8 does not contradict Mt.19:9 (or 1 Co.7:10-11)
- Two divorced people in Mt.19: one has right to remarry; the other does not.
- 1 Co.7:10-11, stay unmarried or reconcile

Summary (1 Co.7:10-11)

- Does Paul contradict himself?
 - NO! He includes the case where the sin of leaving is already done.
 - This passage agrees with Mk.10:10-12...

¹⁰ In the house His disciples also asked Him again about the same matter. ¹¹ So He said to them, “Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her. ¹² And if a woman divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery.”

Summary (1 Co.7:8-9)

- Unmarried and widows –
 - Good to remain unmarried
 - BUT: marriage is better than celibacy without self-control
 - Why? Better to marry than to burn

Some can live / serve without marriage

- Anna, Lk.2:36-38
- Some widows need to remarry, 1 Tim.5¹⁴
Therefore I desire that the younger widows marry, bear children, manage the house, give no opportunity to the adversary to speak reproachfully.
- 1 Co.7²⁶, sometimes: better not to marry
- Mt.24¹⁹ But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days.

Self control...or not?

- **9a:** Self-control: 'in' + 'power', strength; lit., have power over oneself – Vine. Exercise self-control. 9:25, athlete.
- **9b:** Better to marry than to burn
 - If marriage is adulterous, DO NOT marry (Mt.19).
 - Choice is between marriage or celibacy, NOT whether divorcees can remarry.
- Burn: be inflamed (with desire). Ro.1:27

The danger

- Strong feelings can dull judgment, make us vulnerable.
- Paul does not say to marry first one to come along.
- Who should I marry?
 1. Faithful to Lord. Gn.24; 27:46. 1 K.11
 2. Eligible. Mk.6:17-18
 3. Considerate. 1 Sm.25
 4. Good parent. 1 K.16:31...
 5. Trustworthy. Pr.31:11-12

I. Unmarried and Widows (8-9)

II. Married (10-11)

“I give command” (charge)

- These are not suggestions

“Not I, but the Lord”

- Mt.19:4-6 (Gn.2:24)
- Paul gives meaning of Mt.19 without quoting it verbatim

“A wife is not to depart from her husband”

- These are not suggestions
- This also harmonizes with Mt.19:9 [wife may divorce a fornicator].
 - ‘Depart from’: ‘almost a tech. term in connection with divorce’ – M-M.
 - Forbids ‘separation’ and divorce.
 - ‘Divorce’ (put away, v.11): synonym of ‘depart.’

“A wife is not to depart from her husband”

“But even if she does depart...” (11) –

- Some assume Paul gives authority to leave . . . if we remain unmarried. No! [Cf. 1 Jn.2:1]
 1. Some may have separated already . . . or were deserted by spouse out of control
 2. ONE scriptural cause for her to divorce: his fornication.
 3. If divorce is not for fornication, she must repent and seek reconciliation.
 4. One who is divorced (passive, not for fornication) – seek reconciliation.

Two possible alternatives

1. Remain unmarried (present; imperative)
- To remarry another is adultery
 - *“This permits divorce / separation.”* Wrong!
 - a. Violates command of v.10. Mt.19:4-6;
Ep.5:22-25, 28-29
 - b. Violates marriage vows. Rv.21:8
 - c. God hates divorce. Mal.2:16
 - d. Unscriptural divorce may cause mate to
stumble. Mt.5:32; 18:6-7. 1 Co.7:2-3
 - e. Spouse could leave with no reason / without
sin. Mt.7:12

Two possible alternatives

1. Remain unmarried (present; imperative)
- She is not permitted to remarry another.
 - a. Some think this is a loophole to Mt.19:9 (“waiting game”).
 - 1) Leave spouse for unscriptural reason;
 - 2) wait for spouse to remarry;
 - 3) mentally put away for fornication;
 - 4) remarry.
 - Unscriptural. ANTIsriptural. SINful.

Two possible alternatives

1. Remain unmarried (present; imperative)
- She is not permitted to remarry another.
 - a. Some think this is a loophole to Mt.19:9 (“waiting game”).
 - b. Mt.19:9, fornication must precede the putting away.
 - The innocent party may put away the guilty party for fornication.
 - Innocent party must be the one who puts away.

Two possible alternatives

1. Remain unmarried (present; imperative)
2. Be reconciled to husband, 11.

- The union is still intact – they are still bound.
Ro.7:2-3
- Reconcile – be no longer separated
(‘get back together’)

Paul's response to 'loose' marriage attitudes parallels Mt.19 –

1. Persons, 4: male + female – $1 + 1 = 1$
2. Pattern, 5: leave father / mother...
3. Priority, 5: joined to wife – 'one flesh' (new closest relationship)
4. Protection, 6: God joined them together
5. Prohibition, 6: must not separate
6. Punishment, 9: disobedience may lead to living alone