

1 CORINTHIANS: LESSON 17

Chapter 7: The Marriage Relationship

13 October 2017

God has some very plain, very definite things to say about marriage. If God's instructions are followed by both parties, everything will work out just fine in that marriage. When selfishness causes us to ignore God's instructions, it will always lead to marital ruin.

Overview of the chapter:

Concerning marriage:

1. If you are able to remain single and serve God without being distracted by the opposite sex and tempted to sin, it is better to remain single. You'll be able to devote more time to serving the Lord because you don't have a family to occupy so much of your time, energy, and resources.
2. If temptations, loneliness, and the lusts of the flesh are making it impossible for you to serve God as effectively as you want to, it is God's will that you marry, but you must marry a believer or you'll be inviting many new troubles which bring unhappiness into your life and which will also interfere with your relationship with the Lord.
 - a. It is not a sin to marry. It is a sin to forbid a man or a woman to marry (1 Timothy 4:3).
 - b. God has the right to set the proper bounds of marriage. Physical relations are forbidden except to the man and woman who are joined in the bond of marriage (vss 1-5).

Concerning divorce:

1. Differences of opinion, viewpoint, or relationship to God do not justify putting away (divorcing) your spouse. It is your responsibility to obey God even if you have a husband/wife who won't.

Vs 1 A man should not touch a woman because it will naturally stimulate the desire to have physical relations. Physical desires are stimulated by touch.

Note: The **NIV** and the **New Life Version** corrupt verse one to read: "*It is good for a man not to marry.*" This is a doctrine of devils (2 Tim. 4:3). God does not forbid marriage.

The **New Century Version** corrupts verse one to read: "*It is good for a man not to have sexual relations with a woman.*" This translation disregards the actual intent of the verse; that any sort of touching will lead toward sexual relations.

Vs 2 God recommends marriage for the purpose of avoiding fornication.

Vs 3 Husbands and wives should treat one another with the kindness and respect that is due to the one we love and care for. Most likely, you would not desire to leave the one who treats you right. If your spouse wants to leave you, you might want to consider whether or not you treated them with "due benevolence."

Ephesians 5:19-25 on the Marriage Relationship:

- To the husband:** If you expect your wife to submit to you, you'd better make sure you're living up to your part of the relationship (vss 19-21). Does she have reason to want to submit to you? You have a responsibility to look to Jesus Christ in His relationship with the church as the example to follow in your relationship with your wife (vs 25)
- To the wife:** Even if your husband isn't living up to his part of the relationship, you are not excused from obeying the commandment directed toward you. You are to submit yourself unto your own husband as unto the Lord (vs 22) in the fear of God (vs 21).
- To both:** Submit to one another (vs 21). Be careful to fulfill your part even if your spouse comes short in fulfilling their part in the marriage. Obey God and you won't ruin your marriage. Someone else's disobedience does not give you license to disobey.
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1 Corinthians chapter 7

- 7-9** If you don't want to be the husband/wife that God wants you to be, don't get married. If you're content being single, not allured by sensual desires, don't get married. If the lusts of your flesh are too strong, get married.
- 10-17** Divorce (departing, putting away) is not an option. If your husband/wife departs, your options are: stay unmarried or be reconciled. If your husband/wife is not a believer, that is not reason to divorce them. You are their best hope for getting saved (vs 16). An ugly divorce would push them far away from a desire to know your Lord. You have a responsibility to promote the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. If you make it unappealing, you're guilty of the blood of the one who was turned off by your actions. Maintain a good testimony even within the privacy of your marriage.
- 18-24** Getting saved doesn't change your station and position in life. It consequentially allows you to fill that station and position to the honor and glory of God.
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Verse 27 If you're married, "**seek not to be loosed**" (divorced).

Ecclesiastes 5:1-7 you made a vow unto God on the day of your wedding. You sin against God when you break that vow through the divorce court. God will hold you to your vow. You will pay for disobedience to that vow.

Malachi 2:13-16 God turns a deaf ear to the one who breaks the wedding vow.

Song of Songs 8:6-7 If you married because of love, the Bible says that love is stronger than anything that might come against it. Nothing is better than that love.

Galatians 5:22 The fruit of the Spirit is (present tense) love. Your love for your spouse comes from the Holy Spirit. If you cease to love your spouse one day, the problem is your relationship with the Holy Spirit of God. You've got to have a right relationship with the Lord if you want to build a strong marriage relationship. Jesus Christ has got to be the third person in your marriage (Eccl. 4:12).

Ephesians 4:30-33 Put away all the ugly talk, bitterness, and ill will. It grieves the Holy Spirit. Be kind to your husband/wife. Be quick to forgive the one you love.

Ephesians 5:31-33 Treat your spouse the same way you want to be treated. Don't be selfish.