

Divorce and Remarriage (1 Corinthians 7)

17 May 2024

Review:

1. You are better off single than married (verses 7, 8, 20, 26, 27, 28, 32, 34, 35, 38, and 40). You will have more time and energy to devote to serving the Lord.
 2. You should marry if you are distracted by your fleshly desires (verses 35, 5, and 9). You will be expected to fulfill your responsibilities to your wife and children, which will leave less time and energy to serve the Lord.
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Inspiration of the Scriptures:

Paul wasn't always certain that he was speaking the inspired words of God (verses 6, 25, 40). This has resulted in people selectively ignoring or misusing the teachings of 1 Corinthians chapter 7.

Paul was a scribe; he wrote down sacred Scripture. A scribe is a householder, A.K.A. a steward (2 Cor. 4:1-2), "**which bringeth forth out of his treasure things new and old**" (Matthew 13:52). (Old Testament, New Testament). He's "**instructed unto the kingdom of heaven**"

All Scripture is given by inspiration of God (2 Tim. 3:16). The scribe records God's words.

God confirmed through Peter's writings that Paul's epistles were in fact Scripture (2 Peter 3:15-16). Paul wasn't inspired; the words he wrote were inspired. There was no accompanying "feeling" about the words he wrote. That's why he didn't know they were in fact Holy Scripture.

Questions raised in the chapter:

1. Should married couples continue having intimate relations (verses 1-7)? *Yes, it is necessary if you want to avoid temptation. There should be no prolonged abstinence in the marriage.*
 2. Should the unmarried marry (verses 8-9)? *It's not a sin to marry, but you'll serve God better single.*
 3. Is divorce acceptable to Christians (verses 10-11)? *Definitely not.*
 4. Should the marriage bond continue if only one partner gets saved (verses 12-16)? *You are not to divorce the unsaved spouse. Treat them with greater love and respect than they expect from you.*
 5. Do I need to change my physical status after I'm saved (verses 17-24)? *No, abide in your present calling.*
 6. Is it better not to marry, considering the present distress (verses 25-38)? *Yes; live for Jesus.*
 7. May a Christian widow remarry (verses 39-40)? *Yes, but not to an unbeliever. It's better to stay unmarried.*
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Divorce and Remarriage:

1. You can't undo your past. What's done is done. It is an abomination to the Lord to divorce your second wife and return to your first wife (Deut. 24:4, Jer. 3:1).
 2. The Holy Spirit is the author of Love (Gal. 5:22). The Lord is ready to forgive any sin and put it away if you want to maintain a relationship with Him.
 3. I ought to be able (by God's grace) to forgive any transgression my spouse commits against me.
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What the Bible Says:

Verse 10 “Let not the wife depart from her husband.” Notice there are no exceptions provided; divorce is not an option. When you have a grievance with your spouse, you ought to be looking for a way to forgive (which is biblical), not looking for justification for divorce.

Verse 11 If you choose not to listen to God and you divorce your spouse, you are told to “**remain unmarried, or be reconciled.**” Don’t go looking for the second marriage.

Verses 12-14 Don’t divorce an unbelieving husband/wife. Don’t give an unbeliever an excuse to reject God’s salvation.

Verse 15 You can’t stop the unbelieving spouse from departing. God will not hold you accountable for the offense of someone else. He knows if you’re the innocent party. But you must keep in mind that the marriage bond lasts till death (Romans 7:1-3, 1 Cor. 7:39). God hates putting away (Malachi 2:16). You are bound in marriage by God. No man can put that away.

Matt. 5:31-32 Fornication is such a serious offense that the Lord Jesus states that it is a legitimate cause for divorce (**See also Matthew 19:3-9**). God’s will is for a man and a woman to stay married till death (Matt. 19:6) and to forgive one another’s transgressions to maintain that relationship, but forgiveness is very difficult to give to an unfaithful spouse. It’s a very deep pain.

1 Cor. 7:20-22 If a person is already on a second or third marriage when they get saved, can they serve God? If the Lord called you while you were on your second marriage, the instruction is “**abide in the same calling wherein he was called**” (vs. 20). Stay married to your current spouse. You are now Christ’s servant (vs. 22), empowered by the Holy Spirit to be a witness for Christ (Acts 1:8).

1 Tim. 3:1-5 **A bishop** (the spiritual leader in the church assembly) **must be the husband of one wife.** —A man may justify his place in the pulpit by saying, “*I presently only have one wife,*” but if there is a previous marriage in his past, it will always cause some hindrances in his ability to minister. People are less likely to take marital advice from a man who’s been divorced, even if he’s speaking biblical truth.
