

# 1 Corinthians

Christian marriage in a fallen world

7:1-16

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7 Now concerning the things about which you wrote, it is good for a man not to touch a woman. 2 But because of immoralities, each man is to have his own wife, and each woman is to have her own husband. 3 The husband must fulfill his duty to his wife, and likewise also the wife to her husband. 4 The wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband *does*; and likewise also the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife *does*. 5 Stop depriving one another, except by agreement for a time, so that you may devote yourselves to prayer, and come together again so that Satan will not tempt you because of your lack of self-control. 6 But this I say by way of concession, not of command.

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7 Yet I wish that all men were even as I myself am.

However, each man has his own gift from God, one in this manner, and another in that.

8 But I say to the unmarried and to widows that it is good for them if they remain even as I. 9 But if they do not have self-control, let them marry; for it is better to marry than to burn *with passion*.

10 But to the married I give instructions, not I, but the Lord, that the wife should not leave her husband 11 (but if she does leave, she must remain unmarried, or else be reconciled to her husband), and that the husband should not divorce his wife.

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**12** But to the rest I say, not the Lord, that if any brother has a wife who is an unbeliever, and she consents to live with him, he must not divorce her. **13** And a woman who has an unbelieving husband, and he consents to live with her, she must not send her husband away. **14** For the unbelieving husband is sanctified through his wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified through her believing husband; for otherwise your children are unclean, but now they are holy. **15** Yet if the unbelieving one leaves, let him leave; the brother or the sister is not under bondage in such *cases*, but God has called us to peace. **16** For how do you know, O wife, whether you will save your husband? Or how do you know, O husband, whether you will save your wife?

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# Concerning what you wrote... (v1)

- Verse 1 and Paul's opening line mark a major shift in the book.
- Before this he spoke of concerns he had heard about.
- Now he will address specific questions that had been asked to him.



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# Concerning what you wrote... (v1)

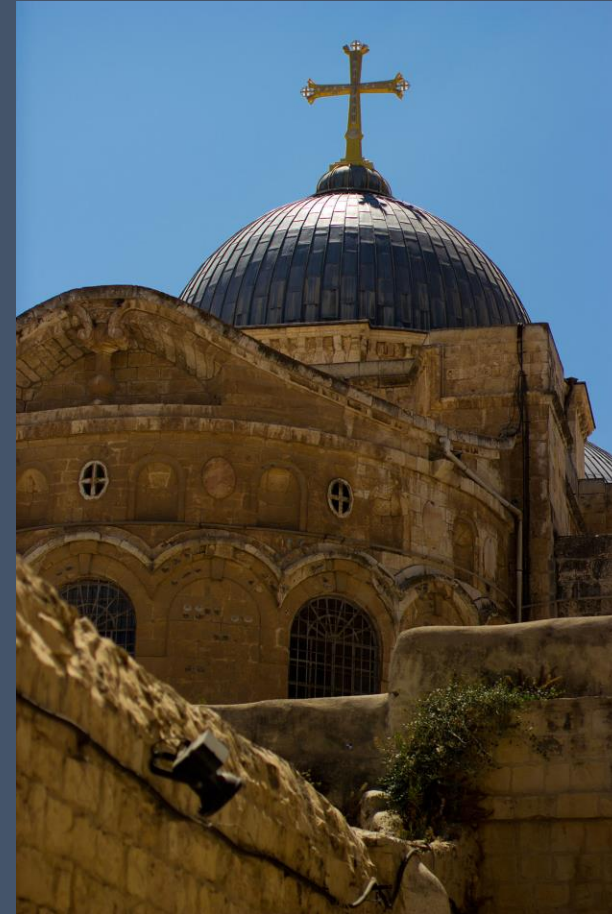


- Marriage vs. Singleness as a Christian
- Fits well with the final verses and ideas of ch. 6
- **1 Cor 6:20** For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body.

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# It is good... not to touch a woman (v1)

- Heb 13:4, Prov 18:22
- "The apostle does *not* imply that the unmarried state is holier than marriage, but simply that it is better to be unmarried if one desires to give oneself to the service of the Lord without distraction." - William MacDonald



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# But because of immoralities... (v2)



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- “Greek writers in the 5th-4th centuries BC characterized Corinth as a city of commercialized love and a “Corinthian girl” meant a prostitute” -BiblePlaces.com
- Temple of Aphrodite, Greek goddess of love was there.

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# Each man is to have his own wife... (v2)

- In such a hypersexualized culture the "default" state, however, shifts to committed, monogamous marriage.
- Marriage protects against the world.
- Marriage provides for holiness.



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# The husband must fulfill his duty... (v3)



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- Sex in marriage is good.
- "He (God) approved of His whole creation. All of it—the food that we eat, the plants, the water, the animals, marital sex—is good and made by God for good purposes." -Randy Alcorn

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# Authority over your own body (v4)

- Your body is under the authority of your spouse.
- **1 Cor 6:13** "Yet the body is not for immorality, but for the Lord,"
- You must strive to provide satisfying sexual relations to your spouse.



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# Stop depriving one another... (v5)



- to remove or withhold some thing from the enjoyment or possession of (a person or persons):
- Deprivation in marriage is explicitly forbidden except when two criteria are met...
- "By agreement".
- "For a time".

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# But this I say by way of concession (v6)

- Either means...
- Marriage itself is not commanded (applied to verses 2-5).
- Abstinence in marriage is not commanded (applied to v 5).
- Does not mean this section of scripture is uninspired.



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# Each man has his own gift from God (v7)



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- Paul reiterates his statement that it is preferable to remain unmarried (as he himself is).
- Paul acknowledges that remaining unmarried is a gift from God not given to everyone.



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# But I say to the unmarried (v8-9)

- It is good to remain unmarried.
- "If they do not have self-control..." - not a slight or judgement. Paul just said it was a gift from God.
- Burn *with passion* -Rev 1:15



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# But to the married I give instructions (v10-11)



- Not I, but the Lord -Matt 5:32, Matt 19:9
- "Should they choose to separate, they must live in that condition or be reconciled; they are not free to divorce and remarry (1 Corinthians 7:10-11). God views marriage as a lifelong covenant before Him that must be honored (Malachi 2:14)." -Statement of Faith

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# To the rest I say (v 12-14)

- I say, not the Lord – Means Jesus did not teach on this scenario, not that this is Paul's personal opinion.
- You should remain in the marriage as long as the other consents (in contrast to OT law).
- Sanctified/holy does not mean saved, but "set apart".



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# Not under bondage (v 15)

- "The Christian would be free to remarry as the Lord leads, but only to another Christian. The effects of divorce are severe and long lasting. It is only the step of last resort when it is clear that sexual immorality or desertion by an unbeliever has completely destroyed the union." -Statement of Faith

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# How do you know (v 16)

- The spiritual good of your spouse supersedes your own needs and desires.
  - Sexual needs
  - Emotional needs
  - Physical needs
- **Eph 5:25-28**



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