"Now Concerning"-Reply To Their Letter – Liberty In Christ – 7:1-16:4

Questions On Marriage

(Instruction, Restrictions, Present Distress, liberties)

1 Corinthians 7:1-40

Instruction, Restrictions, Present Distress, liberties

Principles of Marriage



I CORINTHIANS 7:1-9

- ◆ Response to previous letter (7:1)
- ★Marriage not required but beneficial (7:1,2)
- ◆The conjugal duties are a mutual obligation (7:3-5)
- ◆Concession (7:6) not a command but a liberty - not merely opinion!
- ◆If one can abstain from marriage it would be expedient, even advisable under the circumstances (7:6-9; cf 26)

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Marriage Vows To Be Kept



I CORINTHIANS 7:10-16

◆Divorce is sin - (7:10,11; Mat. 19:3-9)

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Marriage Vows To Be Kept

The One Exception

Except For Sexual Immorality

Matt 5:32; 19:9



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- Abuse
- Alienation of affection
- Desertion
- Drunkenness
- Drug abuse
- Incompatibility

- Irritability
- Irreconcilable differences
- Irresponsibility
- Insanity
- Imprisonment
- *Etc.*

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The One Exception

Except For Sexual Immorality
Matt 5:32; 19:9

- → An exception is not the rule
- ◆The exception is divorce for fornication
- → The exception is given to the one who divorces an unfaithful mate



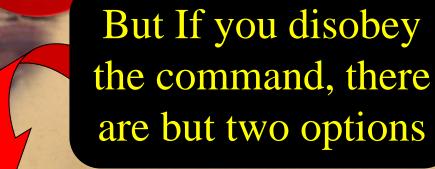
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Marriage Vows To Be Kept

A wife is not to depart from her husband

The Command

And a husband is not to divorce his wife



Remain unmarried



Be reconciled

Instruction, Restrictions, Present Distress, liberties

Marriage Vows To Be Kept

depart not.
[11] But even
if she does
depart,

The Command

1 John 2:1 sin not. And if anyone sins,

Permission is not given to divorce or to sin!

But rather instructions to those who find themselves guilty of doing what the Lord said, "not to do."

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I CORINTHIANS 7:10-16

- ◆Divorce is sin (7:10,11; Mat. 19:3-9)
- ◆"The rest"—the married but not separated - an instance of liberty, involving circumstances that are not completely under the believer's control - the believer must remain in the marriage - (7:12,13)
- ◆"Holy"—set apart benefit of the unbeliever being married to a Christian - Children legitimate – (7:14)

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Marriage Vows To Be Kept

A Pauline Privilege in 1 Cor. 7:15?

1 Cor. 7:15 (NKJV)

But if the unbeliever departs, let him depart; a brother or a sister is not under bondage in such cases. But God has called us to peace.

Why would the UNBELIEVER depart?

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A Pauline Privilege in 1 Cor. 7:15?



Not "Under Bondage"

- (doulow): to make a slave, reduce to bondage
- → Denotes a "servile condition."
- Noun and verb used 133 times in N.T., never refers to marriage bond.

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Marriage Vows To Be Kept

A Pauline Privilege in 1 Cor. 7:15?



Not "Under Bondage"

- ★ The departure of the unbelieving spouse releases a person from spousal duties, but it does not sever the tie of marriage.
- → Hold to Christ, even if it means being deserted by one's unbelieving spouse.

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Marriage Vows To Be Kept



I CORINTHIANS 7:10-16 Sin Involved In Every Divorce!

- → Ignores marital responsibilities (1 Cor. 7:3-5; Eph. 5:22-33; 1 Pet. 3:1-7)
- → It makes one a covenant-breaker (Pr. 2:16-17; Mal. 2:14; Rom. 1:28-32)
- ★ It casts a stumbling block (Mt. 5:31-32;
 Lk. 17:1-2; Rom. 14:13, 21; 1 Cor. 10:31-33)
- ◆ Creates victims Mal 2:14
- ★ A destroyer of lives family & society
- → Adversely effects every relationship

Instruction, Restrictions, Present Distress, liberties

Principles of Marriage



I CORINTHIANS 7:1-9

- Marriage not advisable due to the "current distress" (vs. 26) − but marriage is preferred over the sin of fornication − (7:1,2)
- ▶ Both husbands and wives are to fulfill marital responsibilities to one another if there is a need for fasting and prayer it must be a temporary separation and by the consent of both parties (7:3-5)
- Marriage is a liberty not a requirement– (7:6-9)

Instruction, Restrictions, Present Distress, liberties

Marriage Vows To Be Kept



I CORINTHIANS 7:10-16

- → Do NOT DIVORCE but if the sin of DIVORCE occurs – there are only TWO options unless the exception of Mat 19:9 applies - (7:10,11)
- ◆ Christians married to unbelievers must not DIVORCE their unbelieving spouses

 but if the unbeliever leaves the
 Christian must hold fast to the Lord they may save their spouse (7:16; cf. 1 Pet. 3:1,2)

Instruction, Restrictions, Present Distress, liberties

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Prepared April 17, 2011

Preached April 17, 2011

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