

"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

QUESTIONS ABOUT MARRIAGE

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)



QUESTIONS ABOUT MARRIAGE

Instruction, Restrictions, Present Distress, liberties

Marriage Vows To Be Kept

I CORINTHIANS 7:10-16

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



QUESTIONS ABOUT MARRIAGE

Instruction, Restrictions, Present Distress, liberties

Marriage Vows To Be Kept

The One Exception

Except For Sexual Immorality

Matt 5:32; 19:9

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- | | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Abuse• Alienation of affection• Desertion• Drunkenness• Drug abuse• Incompatibility | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Irritability• Irreconcilable differences• Irresponsibility• Insanity• Imprisonment• Etc. |
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QUESTIONS ABOUT MARRIAGE⁵

Instruction, Restrictions, Present Distress, liberties

Marriage Vows To Be Kept

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



QUESTIONS ABOUT MARRIAGE⁶

Instruction, Restrictions, Present Distress, liberties

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

But If you disobey
the command, there
are but two options

Remain unmarried


OR

Be reconciled

QUESTIONS ABOUT MARRIAGE⁷

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.”

QUESTIONS ABOUT MARRIAGE

Instruction, Restrictions, Present Distress, liberties

Marriage Vows To Be Kept

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)



QUESTIONS ABOUT MARRIAGE

Instruction, Restrictions, Present Distress, liberties

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?



QUESTIONS ABOUT MARRIAGE

Instruction, Restrictions, Present Distress, liberties

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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.



QUESTIONS ABOUT MARRIAGE

Instruction, Restrictions, Present Distress, liberties

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.



QUESTIONS ABOUT MARRIAGE

Instruction, Restrictions, Present Distress, liberties

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



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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)



QUESTIONS ABOUT MARRIAGE

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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)



QUESTIONS ABOUT MARRIAGE

Instruction, Restrictions, Present Distress, liberties

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