

"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

- ✦ 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)



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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 - they may even save their spouse – but if the unbeliever leaves, the Christian must hold fast to the Lord – (7:12-16; cf. 1 Pet. 3:1,2)



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1 Corinthians 7:17-40 (NKJV)

¹⁷ But as God has distributed to each one, as the Lord has called each one, so let him walk. And so I ordain in all the churches. ¹⁸ Was anyone called while circumcised? Let him not become uncircumcised. Was anyone called while uncircumcised? Let him not be circumcised. ¹⁹ Circumcision is nothing and uncircumcision is nothing, but keeping the commandments of God *is what matters.*

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1 Corinthians 7:17-40 (NKJV)

²⁰ Let each one remain in the same calling in which he was called. ²¹ Were you called *while* a slave? Do not be concerned about it; but if you can be made free, rather use *it*. ²² For he who is called in the Lord *while* a slave is the Lord's freedman. Likewise he who is called *while* free is Christ's slave. ²³ You were bought at a price; do not become slaves of men. ²⁴ Brethren, let each one remain with God in that *state* in which he was called.

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1 Corinthians 7:17-40 (NKJV)

²⁵ Now concerning virgins: I have no commandment from the Lord; yet I give judgment as one whom the Lord in His mercy *has made* trustworthy. ²⁶ I suppose therefore that this is good because of the present distress--that *it is* good for a man to remain as he is: ²⁷ Are you bound to a wife? Do not seek to be loosed. Are you loosed from a wife? Do not seek a wife.

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1 Corinthians 7:17-40 (NKJV)

²⁸ But even if you do marry, you have not sinned; and if a virgin marries, she has not sinned. Nevertheless such will have trouble in the flesh, but I would spare you. ²⁹ But this I say, brethren, the time *is* short, so that from now on even those who have wives should be as though they had none,

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1 Corinthians 7:17-40 (NKJV)

³⁰ those who weep as though they did not weep,
those who rejoice as though they did not rejoice,
those who buy as though they did not possess, ³¹
and those who use this world as not misusing it.
For the form of this world is passing away. ³² But I
want you to be without care. He who is
unmarried cares for the things of the Lord--how
he may please the Lord.

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1 Corinthians 7:17-40 (NKJV)

³³ But he who is married cares about the things of the world--how he may please *his* wife. ³⁴ There is a difference between a wife and a virgin. The unmarried woman cares about the things of the Lord, that she may be holy both in body and in spirit. But she who is married cares about the things of the world--how she may please *her* husband.

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1 Corinthians 7:17-40 (NKJV)

³⁵ And this I say for your own profit, not that I may put a leash on you, but for what is proper, and that you may serve the Lord without distraction. ³⁶ But if any man thinks he is behaving improperly toward his virgin, if she is past the flower of youth, and thus it must be, let him do what he wishes. He does not sin; let them marry.

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1 Corinthians 7:17-40 (NKJV)

³⁷ Nevertheless he who stands steadfast in his heart, having no necessity, but has power over his own will, and has so determined in his heart that he will keep his virgin, does well. ³⁸ So then he who gives *her* in marriage does well, but he who does not give *her* in marriage does better.

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1 Corinthians 7:17-40 (NKJV)

³⁹ A wife is bound by law as long as her husband lives; but if her husband dies, she is at liberty to be married to whom she wishes, only in the Lord. ⁴⁰ But she is happier if she remains as she is, according to my judgment--and I think I also have the Spirit of God.

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Serving God Where You Are

I CORINTHIANS 7:17-24

- ✦ Social status does not make one more spiritual – but keeping the commandments of God is what matters – (7:17-19)
- ✦ Be content with your social status – belonging to the Lord is what matters – (7:20-23)
- ✦ Serve God in what ever state you are called – (*circumcised or uncircumcised; slave or free; married or unmarried*) – (7:24)



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Serving God Where You Are

I CORINTHIANS 7:18,19

- ◆ Being circumcised is no longer a commandment of God – therefore a change in what constitutes God's commandments has occurred. (cf. Gal. 5:6; 6:15; Col 2:14-17; Eph 2:14-16)
- ◆ We are no longer under the Law of Moses, but the Law of Christ which contains the "commandments" of God for Christians to obey. (Mat 7:21-23; John 14:15; Heb. 5:8-9)



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Serving God Where You Are

I CORINTHIANS 7:20-22

'The central and important issue with Paul was not the external circumstances, but one's response to the call of God. Paul is not saying: "Is your calling to slavery?" He did say: "Were you called (while) being a bondservant?" Well, then, while you are a slave, walk as one called by God. Slavery doesn't prevent you from living like Christ.'

(McGuiggan p. 110)



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Serving God Where You Are

Acceptable Status!

Circumcised? (18,19)

Born a slave? (22,23)

Married? (10-16)

Unmarried? (8,15, 27)

Need to marry? (9,28)

Unacceptable Status!

Thief?

Drunkard?

Homosexual?

Adulterer?

Denominational?

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Concerning Virgins

I CORINTHIANS 7:25,26

- ◆ 'Now concerning virgins' - 'the opening words of this phrase suggest that this was a specific question raised in the Corinthian's letter.' (F.F. Bruce p. 73)
- ◆ "Virgins" - in the context we find advice given to both unmarried men (7:26-28a) and women (7:28,34,36-37).
- ◆ "but I give my judgment," – inspired advice – (7:25; vs. 6,7)



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I CORINTHIANS 7:27

- ◆ 'bound unto a wife?' - 'didst thou marry at one time, and art thou thus married now?' (Lenski p. 313) 'Are you married?' (NIV) (1 Cor. 7:39; Romans 7:2)
- ◆ 'Seek not to be loosed' - 'do not be seeking' (Gr. Ex. N.T. p. 832) 'Present active imperative..' "Do not be seeking release." (Robertson p. 132)
- ◆ Implies that some in Corinth were pro-divorce for "spiritual" reasons.



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I CORINTHIANS 7:28

- ✦ **The unmarried may marry & not be guilty of sin** – Paul clarifies his statement – *“are you loosed from a wife do not seek a wife”*
- ✦ **Must be understood in light of other scripture** – Paul is not permitting those unscripturally divorced to remarry!! - (Mat 5:32; 19:9; Rom 7:3)



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I CORINTHIANS 7:29-31

- ◆ Christians must remember that we can't elevate any of the things of this life above God.
- ◆ There's nothing wrong with recreation, entertainment, family events, or social activities- but we must keep all such things in proper perspective - (Mat 6:33)
- ◆ Appreciate the good things of this life, but we must be willing to sacrifice them, if need be - (1 Tim 4:4; Luke 14:33)



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I CORINTHIANS 7:32-35

- ◆ “But I want you to be without care” -
'He closed verse 28 by saying he wished to help them avoid pain. He repeats that in 32. Marriage brings vulnerability with it.' (McGuiggan p. 117)
- ◆ ‘Things of the world’ - i.e. not sinful things - but the things necessary for one’s spouse and family. i.e. - how they may please each other (33,34) - (cf. Eph 5:25-29; 1 Peter 3:7; Col 3:19; Deut. 24:5)



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Concerning Virgins

I CORINTHIANS 7:32-35

- ✦ Marriage isn't for the selfish! A God given obligation in marriage is to "please" the partner in the marriage. A "normal" marriage from God's point of view, is one in which both partners are "concerned" about "pleasing" the other.
- ✦ **A.T. Robertson** - 'But, alas, how many unmarried women (and men) are after the things of the world today and lead a fast and giddy life.' (p. 134; 1931)



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Concerning Virgins

I CORINTHIANS 7:36-38 (NKJV)

³⁶ But if any man thinks he is behaving improperly toward his virgin, if she is past the flower of youth, and thus it must be, let him do what he wishes. He does not sin; let them marry. ³⁷ Nevertheless he who stands steadfast in his heart, having no necessity, but has power over his own will, and has so determined in his heart that he will keep his virgin, does well. ³⁸ So then he who gives *her* in marriage does well, but he who does not give *her* in marriage does better.



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Concerning Widows

I CORINTHIANS 7:39-40 (NKJV)

³⁹ A wife is bound by law as long as her husband lives; but if her husband dies, she is at liberty to be married to whom she wishes, only in the Lord.

⁴⁰ But she is happier if she remains as she is, according to my judgment-- and I think I also have the Spirit of God.



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I CORINTHIANS 7:39-40 (NKJV)

- ◆ 'so long time'-cf. "while" of Rom 7:2.
- ◆ 'she is free to be married'-'The widow is permitted to remarry (though many Jews didn't like that view).' (McGuiggan p. 118)
- ◆ 'to whom she will'- Being a widow - she had full freedom to make her choice - in contrast to a daughter still at home.
- ◆ 'only in the Lord'-various views exist as to what this statement means.



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I CORINTHIANS 7:39-40 (NKJV)

- ◆ Her liberty is limited – 1. The marriage must be lawful! – 2. To marry only in the Lord -
- ◆ Lipscomb & Shepherd – “Only in the Lord - This prohibits the widow marrying one not a Christian”
- ◆ “. . . She should take care that whom she marries is not within the line prohibited by the Lord.” – John Gill



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I CORINTHIANS 7:39-40 (NKJV)

- ◆ Requires “. . . Christian motives’ . . . ‘Yet many take “in the Lord” in a wider sense, namely, “in a Christian way”, or “in the fear of the Lord . . .” (Lenski p. 331)
- ◆ Her choice of marriage is to be “*only in the Lord*,” not necessarily the person she marries (cf Eph 6:1).
- ◆ “This is not so much a command that she may not marry outside the Lord as it is good sense” - (Fee p. 356; i.e. Willis 258)



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1 CORINTHIANS 7:39-40 (NKJV)

- ◆ But she is happier if she remains as she is, according to my judgment—
(compare with 1 Timothy 5:14)
- ◆ Paul claims that the Holy Spirit is the source of his counsel – “inspiration.”
- ◆ Paul has been dealing largely with things that fall under the heading of “Authorized Liberties” – or “Expedients.”
- ◆ However - his counsel in these areas has been guided by Divine wisdom.



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