

## *Questions About Marriage to An Inspired Apostle (1 Cor 7)*

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**Introduction:** Where do you seek the answers to the questions of life?

A. The priorities of a spiritual man are seen here.

1. We must first seek God's word. **(Psa 119:103-105)**

2. We then seek the council of spiritual men. **(1 Cor 6:1,5; Heb 13:17)**

B. The Corinthians in spite of all their faults, knew who to write about their problems! **(1 Cor 7:1)**

1. The remainder of the book is Paul's answers to a series of questions.

2. The earlier section was written in response to a report from the house of Chloe. **(1:11)**

2. This is an important principle for understanding the rapid changes in subjects in the book.

3. We will consider this chapter by dividing it into four questions.

**I. Is it Advisable to Marry? (V1-9)**

A. The wisdom of God's provisions. **(Heb 13:4)**

1. While the satisfaction of our desires are provided for in God's will, it is possible that we lose the right to marry or the full privileges of marriage.

2. A person does not automatically have the right to marry because he "cannot exercise self-control" **(1 Cor 7:9)**

3. It is wrong for a marriage to become nothing more than a house keeping relationship! We can play a role in driving a mate to adultery. **(Mt 5:32)**

4. Remember, it is never impossible to do right and forsake wrong! **(1 Cor 7:11, 19)**

B. What is "good", what is a concession, and what is a commandment?

1. While everything Paul wrote is inspired, you could categorize what he writes in this chapter into four categories:

a. A command of God. **(v10)**

b. That which is good or a concession for certain circumstances. **(v1, 6, 8)**

c. Things which the Lord addressed in his personal ministry. **(v10)**

d. Things which the Lord did not reveal during his personal ministry **(v12)**

2. As in any passage note the context carefully. (Ex. The 3 "W's)

a. Who is speaking. Who is being spoken to. What is the occasion?

b. This is God's word and every word is there for a reason! God knew that these things would be given to all future generations.

**(Acts 2:39; 1 Cor 14:37)**

C. Marriage is a choice that can be taken or not taken. **(1 Cor 7:8-9)**

1. We need wisdom in our choices. Is God really first?

2. Single people do not need to marry out of pressure of men!

3. This is not an unqualified statement of the right to marry.

**(1 Cor 7:10-11; 1 Cor 6:13-14)**

***II. What about divorce and desertion among Christians and among Christians that are married to unbelievers? (7:10-16)***

A. Consider Jesus universal statements on marriage. **(7:10-11; Mt 19:6-9; 5:32)**

1. The term “depart” is the same verb used in **Mt 19:6** and **Mk 10:9** to indicate divorce.

2. This text does not justify divorce! **(Mt 5:32)**

B. How does this apply to believers married to unbelievers? **(1 Cor 7:12-16)**

1. We cannot divorce our mate just because they are not a believer. **(7:12)**

2. This relationship is not sinful! **(7:13)**

3. A Christian however is never under bondage to follow the unbeliever instead of Christ! **(7:14-15)**

a. Rather than being a “Pauline privilege” for remarriage, this is describing a bondage that a Christian was never and will never be under!

b. There are other men who reject Jesus when He says “except.”

4. There is great power in the example of a Christian in marriage.

**(1 Pet 3:1-2)**

a. It takes a faith that will put God first! If you had such a faith before you marry, would you marry an unbeliever?

b. Most “Christians” that marry unbelievers follow them and not the Lord.

***III. What about other relationships we had before becoming a Christian? (7:17-24)***

A. God does not expect you to give up that which is not sinful or to sin in giving up that which God has bound you!

1. This is taught everywhere! **(1 Cor 7:17; 4:17; 11:16; 14:33-34)**

2. God does not command circumcision. What then should we do?

**(1 Cor 7:18; Gal 5:1-4, Gal 5:6)**

3. What about slavery? **(1 Cor 7:21-22)**

4. Our real danger is giving up our liberty to follow men! **(1 Cor 7:23)**

B. We can remain in all lawful relationships! **(1 Cor 7:24)**

***IV. What about widows and the unmarried? (7:25-40)***

A. Divine judgment here can be disregarded. **(1 Cor 7:25-26)**

1. Here it is inspired judgment. Still you can say no! **(1 Cor 7:26, 28)**

2. How is one bound and loosed in marriage? **(Rom 7:1-5; Mt 19:9)**

3. Suffering can change one’s perspective on what will last!

**(1 Cor 7:29-31)**

B. There is an advantage of being single! **(1 Cor 7:32-35)**

C. There are important considerations before marrying! **(1 Cor 7:36-38)**

D. What about a Christian widower remarrying? **(1 Cor 7:38-39)**