

# Deciding to Stay Married

1 Corinthians 7:10-24

Outline of 1 Corinthians:

- I. **Introduction (1:1-9)**
- II. **Problems Reported (1:10-6:20)**
- III. **Questions Raised (7:1-16:4)**
  - a. Confusion with Marriage (7:1-24)
  - b. Confusion with Getting Married (7:25-40)

## A. The Principle (v10-11)

<sup>7:10</sup> Now to the married I command, yet not I but the Lord:  
A wife is not to depart from her husband.

*The Lord had already said this:*

- Genesis 2:24
- Matthew 5:31-32
- Matthew 19:1-12 (Mark 10:1-12)

<sup>7:11</sup> But even if she does depart, let her remain unmarried or be reconciled to *her* husband.  
And a husband is not to divorce *his* wife.

## B. Difficult Circumstances (v12-16)

**v12-13** – Stay married if you can.

**v14** – There is sanctification because of one believer in a family.

**Sanctify (Greek *hagiazō*) – to set apart, to be made holy**

*Some ways the concept of sanctification is used in Scripture:*

- **Sanctified objects** – things which are dedicated or purified; e.g. sacrifices to be offered or food to be eaten (1 Timothy 4:4-5)
  - **1 Tim. 4:4-5** - <sup>4</sup>For every creature of God *is* good, and nothing is to be refused if it is received with thanksgiving; <sup>5</sup> for it is **sanctified** by the word of God and prayer.
- **Positional sanctification** – a believer in Christ has been set apart to God by identity; this is true of all believers from the moment of salvation (1 Cor 1:2)
  - **1 Cor. 1:2** - To the church of God which is at Corinth, to those who are **sanctified** in Christ Jesus, called *to be saints*...
- **Progressive sanctification** – a growing believer is made more and more set apart to righteousness as a process of time (John 17:17)
  - **John 17:17** - <sup>17</sup>“**Sanctify** them by Your truth. Your word is truth.”
- **Sanctifying God personally** – God is set apart in the heart of a believer as he dedicates his own life to God’s service (1 Peter 3:15)
  - **1 Pet. 3:15** - But **sanctify** the Lord God in your hearts, and always *be* ready to *give* a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear;

*\*How are unbelieving spouses and children “sanctified” (1 Cor. 7:14)?*

- Set apart by means of the righteous influence on their lifestyle
- Set apart to great opportunities to hear the gospel, believe, and be saved

**v15** – If the unbelieving spouse insists on divorce, the believer can accept it.

**v16** – If you are in an unequal marriage, be encouraged that your spouse may one day be saved.

### **C. Sticking With It (v17-24)**

**v17** – Whatever your circumstances, married or not, walk with God where you are.

**v18-23** – Other examples illustrate this same principle of contentment.

**v24** – Don’t focus on changing circumstances. Bloom where planted.