

Deciding to Get Married

1 Corinthians 7:25-40

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)

Five General Observations on 1 Corinthians 7:25-40

- 1) The intended audience of this passage includes believers who are free to marry:
 - “virgins” (v25) and widows (“if her husband dies” v39)
- 2) **This passage contains two primary points:**
 - **(1) it is best to stay single, in Paul’s opinion;**
 - **(2) even so, getting married is perfectly acceptable in the sight of God.**
- 3) The content of this passage is focused primarily on defending Paul’s position that remaining unmarried is better than getting married.
- 4) There is no command in this passage, but rather a discussion which is designed to help believers consider whether to get married or not.
 - v25 – “I have no commandment from the Lord”
 - v28 – “...you have not sinned... she has not sinned”
 - v36 – “...let him do what he wishes. He does not sin; let them marry.”
 - v39 – concerning widows: “she is at liberty to be married...”
- 5) The good-hearted motivation behind Paul’s instruction is clear:
 - v28 – “...such will have trouble... but I would spare you.”
 - v32 – “...I want you to be without care.”
 - v35 – “...for your profit, not that I may put a leash on you... **that you may serve the Lord without distraction.**”

A. The advantage of the single state (7:25-28)

- The counsel of these verses is based on a confidence in the sovereignty of God. Much like verses 17-24, we are encouraged to bloom where planted (especially see v27).
- “because of the present distress” (v26) indicates that some specific circumstances add weight to the discussion. This passage still holds value today, but was especially applicable to the Corinthian church in the mid-50’s AD.

B. Reasons for remaining single (7:29-35)

Reason #1: “the time is short” (v29-31)

We should never let our temporal circumstances define our identity.

*What is coming next?

*Can you be certain that your eternity will be spent with God?

*When will the present time come to an end?

Reason #2: Marriage adds cares. (v32-35)

C. The legitimacy of marriage (7:36-40)

*What elements might go into the decision for a believer to marry?

- If staying unmarried would add hardship
- If the man and woman are old enough
- If those involved in the decision think it is a good idea
- If the other person is a believer