

1 Corinthians 7

1. What was the first problem Paul wrote about in the beginning of chapter 6?
 - Christians were taking fellow Christians to court to be judged.
2. Why is it important that Christians resolve their problems with the church?
 - It is a testimony to the rest of the world.
3. What is this testimony?
 - That Christians are one family with God.
 - That Christians look to God and His people to solve their problems, and not to those who are not of God.
4. If Christ is the judge of all the earth and of all people, then how is it that Christians will judge?
 - Christ is the judge for sin in all the earth and for all people.
 - Christians, however, will judge or govern the earth and all people.
5. How do we hurt God by taking other Christians to court?
 - Because God and His people are one, and by attacking another Christian in court, we are attacking God as well.
6. How do we hurt ourselves by taking other Christians to court?
 - Because God and His people are one, and by attaching

another Christian in court, we are hurt as well.

7. Why should we accept injustice and forgive the other person?
 - Because God will repay all injustice one day.
 - Because God's justice is better than our justice.
 - Because we are not stronger than evil, and we will only be hurt more by resisting evil.
8. Why are God and Paul giving the Corinthian Christians and us this list of sins? Are these the sins which can cause us to lose our salvation?
 - No.
 - There are no sins which can cause us to lose our salvation.
9. Why is it important to remember how our lives used to be before we believed in Christ?
 - So that we can thank God for saving us from our sins in the past.
 - So that we can call on God to help us not to continue in sin in the future.
10. What is the freedom that we now have as Christians?
 - We are free from having to work for our salvation.
 - We are free from having to earn our salvation.
 - We are free from the power of sin and death and Satan.
11. Why should we run from sexual immorality?
 - Because sexual immorality can destroy us, and greatly hurt all those around us.

-Because sexual immorality promises pleasure, but in the end delivers heartache.

-While we studied marriage in Ephesians, God and Paul talk of problems in marriage in 1 Corinthians chapter 7.

-In the city of Corinth, there was much sexual immorality and prostitution.

-In the church in Corinth, Christians had many different ideas about marriage.

-Some Christians thought that it was permissible to have sex without getting married.

-Some Christians thought that sex was wrong even in marriage.

-Some Christians thought that being single was more holy than marriage, and that married Christians should separate.

-Some Christians thought they should divorce their non-Christian husbands or wives.

-Let's learn what our God says about marriage:

Let's read 1 Corinthians 7:1

1-Now for the matters you wrote about: "It is good for a man not to have sexual relations with a

woman."

-In the first verse, we learn that the Corinthians had written earlier to Paul, and that one of their questions was about marriage.

-In their letter, the Corinthian Christians had written: "It is good for a man not to have sexual relations with a woman."

-The meaning here is this: "It is good for a man not to marry."

-Why would the Christians at Corinth write that it is good for a man not to marry?

-Marriage is a gift from God so that a man and a woman do not have to live alone.

-In Genesis 2:18, God said: "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him."

-Marriage is also a gift from God so that we can have children.

-In Genesis 1:28, God told Adam and Eve to "be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth."

-In Genesis 9:1, God told Noah and his sons to "be fruitful and increase in number and fill the earth."

-Why would the Christians at Corinth say that it is good for a man not to marry?

-It must have been because of all of the sexual immorality in Corinth.

-It is also possible that they were thinking that their lives would be more holy if they did not get married.

Let's read 1 Corinthians 7:2-3

2-But since sexual immorality is occurring, each man should have sexual relations with his own wife, and each woman with her own husband.

3-The husband should fulfill his marital duty to his wife, and likewise the wife to her husband.

-Because of the problem of sexual immorality, what does the Word of God teach us?

-That marriage is an answer to the problem of sexual immorality.

-As the Word of God also teaches us, the husband and the wife have a marital duty to have sexual relations with one another.

-If the husband and the wife fulfill this marital duty, then there should be no sexual immorality in their lives.

Let's read 1 Corinthians 7:4

4-The wife does not have authority over her own body but yields it to her husband. In the same way, the husband does not have authority over his own body but yields it to his wife.

-In marriage, the Word of God teaches us that the man's body belongs to his wife, and that the woman's body belongs to her husband.

-What is the truth about the man's body belonging to his wife, and the woman's body belonging to her husband?

-God wants the husband to serve his wife, and He also wants the wife to serve her husband.

-When the husband and wife serve one another, their marriage will be of God and be very strong.

Let's read 1 Corinthians 7:5-6

5-Do not deprive each other except perhaps by mutual consent and for a time, so that you may devote yourselves to prayer. Then come together again so that Satan will not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.

6-I say this as a concession, not as a command.

-Is it right for a husband to deprive his wife or a woman to deprive her husband of sexual intimacy?

-No.

-The Christians at Corinth may have been thinking that they would be more holy by refusing to have sex with their husband or wife.

-What is wrong to think that a husband or wife can refuse sex to make them more holy?

-First, our holiness does not come from us nor from our works, but rather from God alone.

-Second, depriving your spouse of a God-given right can hurt and may give Satan an opportunity to tempt you.

-Is it wise for a man to leave his wife alone for a long time when he is studying or working in another country?

-No.

-It is better if he takes his wife with him, or visits her on a regular basis.

-When should a husband and a wife not have sex with one another?

-Only if they both agree in order to devote themselves to a special time of prayer.

-The only other times when a husband and wife should not have sex would be during the seven days of her menstrual cycle as well as many days after the birth of a child (Leviticus 12:2-5; 15:19).

-God does not command us to abstain from sex in the marriage.

-God is teaching us that there is nothing wrong with sex in marriage.

-Rather, it is Satan's strategy to discourage sex within marriage and to encourage sex outside of marriage.

-God wants every Christian marriage to enjoy a sexual relationship that is a blessing and not a burden or a curse.

Let's read 1 Corinthians 7:7

7-I wish that all of you were as I am. But each of you has your own gift from God; one has this gift, another has that.

-When God through Paul wrote this letter, Paul was not married.

-However, there is evidence to believe that Paul was married in the past.

-In Paul's day, Jews considered marriage a duty, and if a young man became 20 years old and wasn't married, this was seen as a sin.

-Paul was also a member of the Sanhedrin, and only married men could belong to the Sanhedrin.

-What happened to Paul's wife?

-We do not know, but she may have died or left Paul when he became a Christian.

-Why did Paul wish that the Corinthians would be like him and not be married?

-So that they would dedicate themselves completely to God's work, and not worry about marriage.

-When Jesus' disciples said that it is better not to marry, Jesus said this:

-“Others have renounced marriage because of the kingdom of heaven. The one who can accept this should accept it.” (Mt 19:11-12).

-What does it mean that each of us has our own gift from God?

-If you are not married and are not going to marry, then this is a gift from God.

-If you are married, then this is also a gift from God.

-God through Paul is teaching us that to be single or to be married are both gifts from God.

-First, the Word of God teaches us about those who are not married, including widows.

Let's read 1 Corinthians 7:8-9

8-Now to the unmarried and the widows I say: It is good for them to stay unmarried, as I am.

9-But if they cannot control themselves, they should marry, for it is better to marry than to burn with passion.

-What does the Word of God teach us about the unmarried and the widows?

-It is good for them to stay unmarried.

-But what does the Word of God say about those who cannot control themselves?

-They should marry.

-Why is it better to marry than to burn with passion?

-Because the only place for passion is in marriage.

-Does this mean that people who cannot control themselves should marry the first person they meet?

-No.

-It is better to burn for a short time with passion than to have a long, unhappy marriage.

-Second, the Word of God teaches us about those who are married, and both the husband and wife are

Christians.

Let's read 1 Corinthians 7:10-11

10-To the married I give this command (not I, but the Lord): A wife must not separate from her husband.

11-But if she does, she must remain unmarried or else be reconciled to her husband. And a husband must not divorce his wife.

-Why does Paul write "I give this command (not I, but the Lord)"?

-Because the Lord Jesus has already taught these truths when He was on earth.

Let's read Mark 10:2-12

2-Some Pharisees came and tested him by asking, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?"

3-"What did Moses command you?" he replied.

4-They said, "Moses permitted a man to write a certificate of divorce and send her away."

5-"It was because your hearts were hard that Moses wrote you this law," Jesus replied.

6-"But at the beginning of creation God 'made them male and female.'

7-'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife,

8-and the two will become one flesh.' So they are no longer two, but one flesh.

9-Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate."

10-When they were in the house again, the disciples asked Jesus about this.

11-He answered, "Anyone who divorces his wife and marries another woman commits adultery against her.

12-And if she divorces her husband and marries another man, she commits adultery."

-What does the Word of God teach us about a Christian man and a Christian woman who are married?

-They must not separate or divorce.

-If a Christian man and a Christian woman separate or divorce, what should they do?

-They must remain unmarried or be reconciled.

-Third, the Word of God teaches us about those who are married, but one of the spouses is not a Christian.

Let's read 1 Corinthians 7:12-14

12-To the rest I say this (I, not the Lord): If any brother has a wife who is not a believer and she is willing to live with him, he must not divorce her.

13-And if a woman has a husband who is not a believer and he is willing to live with her, she must not divorce him.

14-For the unbelieving husband has been sanctified through his wife, and the unbelieving wife has been sanctified through her believing husband. Otherwise your children would be unclean, but as it is, they are holy.

-Why does Paul write “I, not the Lord”?

-Because Jesus did not teach about this when He was on earth.

-Does this mean that this is not true?

-No.

-Even though Paul wrote, “I, not the Lord,” all of that which He wrote in the Bible is from God, and not from man.

-Some Christians thought they should divorce their non-Christian husbands and wives so that they could serve Christ better.

-What does the Word of God teach us about a Christian who is married to a non-Christian?

-The Christian should not divorce the non-Christian.

-Why should Christians not divorce their unbelieving spouses?

-Because the Word of God tells us that “what God has

joined together, let not man separate.”

-Because the Christian can help their unbelieving spouse to believe in Christ.

-Because we learned in Ephesians that marriage is an illustration of the Lord’s love.

-If a man or a woman does not believe in Christ, yet is married to a Christian, does this save them?

-No.

-No, but a non-Christian is blessed by this relationship and will hopefully believe in the future.

-If children do not believe in Christ, yet have a mother and father who are Christians, does this save them?

-No.

-No, but unbelieving children are blessed by this family and will hopefully believe in the future.

-What does the Word of God teach us if a husband or wife who does not believe in Christ leaves?

Let’s read 1 Corinthians 7:15-16

15-But if the unbeliever leaves, let him do so. A believing man or woman is not bound in such circumstances; God has called us to live in peace.

16-How do you know, wife, whether you will save

your husband? Or, how do you know, husband, whether you will save your wife?

-If the non-Christian spouse leaves, then the Christian should allow him or her to go.

-Why should the Christian allow the unbeliever to go?

-Because the Christian does not know what it will take for the non-Christian to repent and believe.

Let's read 1 Corinthians 7:17

17-Nevertheless, each person should live as a believer in whatever situation the Lord has assigned to them, just as God has called them. This is the rule I lay down in all the churches.

-Whether we are single or married or divorced, what is important?

-To be content.

-Why should we be content?

-Because God has allowed us to be where we are.

-If we are not content as a single man or woman, will we be content when we marry?

-No.

-Must we be single in order to do God's work?

-No.

-If we believed in Christ after marriage, but our spouse is not a Christian, can we do God's work?

-Yes.

-In what situations can Christians do God's work?

-In any situation in any place.

-In the remaining verses of chapter 7, God through Paul talks of reasons for remaining single.

Let's read 1 Corinthians 7:25-27

25-Now about virgins: I have no command from the Lord, but I give a judgment as one who by the Lord's mercy is trustworthy.

26-Because of the present crisis, I think that it is good for a man to remain as he is.

27-Are you pledged to a woman? Do not seek to be released. Are you free from such a commitment? Do not look for a wife.

-When Paul wrote that he had no command from the Lord, he meant that the Lord Jesus had not taught this.

-Yet, as God through Paul wrote this letter, we can know that his words are that which God Himself wrote.

-What was the "present crisis"?

-The "present crisis" could mean the persecution that

Christians were having during Paul's time, but can also mean any persecution that the world gives to Christians.

-While any persecution is difficult, it will be more difficult for those who are married.

Let's read 1 Corinthians 7:28

28-But if you do marry, you have not sinned; and if a virgin marries, she has not sinned. But those who marry will face many troubles in this life, and I want to spare you this.

-While single people have problems, married people have even more problems.

-This is because both the husband and the wife bring their own problems into the marriage.

-When he is single, it is difficult for a sinner to live with himself, but when he marries and lives with another sinner, the difficulties increase.

-Does marriage solve all of our problems?
-No.

-Marriage will not solve loneliness, sexual temptation, our deepest emotional needs nor life's difficulties.

-Who alone can solve these problems?
-Christ.

-Who alone can hold two people together?
-Christ.

-On whom should we focus more than being single or married?
-Christ.

-Another reason to remain single is that our time on earth is short.

Let's read 1 Corinthians 7:29-31

29-What I mean, brothers and sisters, is that the time is short. From now on those who have wives should live as if they do not;

30-those who mourn, as if they did not; those who are happy, as if they were not; those who buy something, as if it were not theirs to keep;

31-those who use the things of the world, as if not engrossed in them. For this world in its present form is passing away.

-Because our time on earth is short, we must use our time to work for God more than to work for the world.

-Is the Word of God saying that men should abandon their wives because time is short?
-No.

-Is the Word of God saying that if someone dies, we

should not mourn?

-No.

-Is the Word of God saying that we should not be happy or not keep that which we buy, or not use the things of the world?

-No.

-The Word of God is saying that because our time on earth is short, we should live our lives according to this.

-Marriage or having money should not be our main goal in life.

-Our main goal should be to do the work of God.

-Another reason to remain single is that we would not have to worry about a wife or husband.

Let's read 1 Corinthians 7:32-35

32-I would like you to be free from concern. An unmarried man is concerned about the Lord's affairs—how he can please the Lord.

33-But a married man is concerned about the affairs of this world—how he can please his wife—

34-and his interests are divided. An unmarried woman or virgin is concerned about the Lord's affairs: Her aim is to be devoted to the Lord in both body and spirit. But a married woman is concerned about the affairs of this world—how she can please her husband.

35-I am saying this for your own good, not to restrict you, but that you may live in a right way in undivided devotion to the Lord.

-What is the advantage of remaining single?

-Undivided devotion to the Lord.

-The final reason for remaining single would be that if you would marry, then you are bound to your husband or wife as long as they are alive.

Let's read 1 Corinthians 7:39-40

39-A woman is bound to her husband as long as he lives. But if her husband dies, she is free to marry anyone she wishes, but he must belong to the Lord.

40-In my judgment, she is happier if she stays as she is. And I think that I too have the Spirit of God.

-If a spouse dies, is the remaining spouse free to marry again?

-Yes.

-If a spouse dies, who alone should a Christian marry?

-Another Christian.

-What fellowship or harmony or agreement is there between Christians and non-Christians?

-None.