

I Corinthians

(15) God's Will in Marriage

1 Cor 7:1-11

7 Now for the matters you wrote about: It is good for a man not to marry. 2 But since there is so much immorality, each man should have his own wife, and each woman her own husband. 3 The husband should fulfill his marital duty to his wife, and likewise the wife to her husband. 4 The wife's body does not belong to her alone but also to her husband. In the same way, the husband's body does not belong to him alone but also to his wife. 5 Do not deprive each other except 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. 7 I wish that all men were as I am. But each man has his own gift from God; one has this gift, another has that.

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.

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. NIV

First, understanding the *confusion* at Corinth...7:1-11

There were (4) types of 'marriage' practiced at Corinth. They are as follows:

(1) Marriage between slaves; 'tent companions'. Continued as long as owner allowed.

Owner could separate them; assign another partner; or one or both could be sold.

(2) Common law marriage; couple was recognized as married after 1 year living together.

(3) In this type, a father would sell his daughter to a prospective husband.

(4) Like our marriage today. Bridesmaid, best man, wedding ring (third finger, left hand).

And many of the Corinthian believers came out of, or were still in, one of these 'marriages'!

In contrast to the prior 6 chapters, what is new starting with chapter 7? 7:1

Q1: Is it Ok/better to be single than married? What's his answer? 7:1b-2, 6-7, 32-35

Q2: Is sex evil? Are you more spiritual by abstinence? What's his answer? 7:3-5

Q3: Are you (being single) teaching that single is better than married? 7:6-7, 8-9, 32-35

Q4: What about divorce (both believers)? Answer? 7:10-11; Mt.19:3-6, 7-9

The summary principles... 7:1-11

When real-life situations seem to have conflict re God's will, what always wins? 7:10-13, 17

What are some provisions in God's permissive will to protect His own.?

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In contrast to the prior 6 chapters, what is new starting with chapter 7? 7:1

Paul is here responding to some specific questions written to him from the Corinthians.

Q1: Is it Ok/better to be single than married? What's his answer? 7:1b-2, 6-7, 32-35

It's good to be single, if God has gifted you for that. But it may come w/temptations (vs.2).

Q2: Is sex evil? Are you more spiritual by abstinence? What's his answer? 7:3-5

Not within marriage! Husband and wife submit to each other. Even w/unbeliever spouse.

Q3: Are you (being single) teaching that single is better than married? 7:6-7, 8-9, 32-35

He preferred single (free to serve Christ) but not everyone has that gift. If not, then marry!

Q4: What about divorce (both believers)? Answer? 7:10-11; Mt.19:3-6, 7-9

Neither husband nor wife should initiate divorce. If it happens, reconcile or no remarriage

The summary principles... 7:1-11

When real-life situations seem to have conflict re God's will, what always wins? 7:10-13, 17

The overriding will of God is for marriage to endure. Saved, unsaved. Stay where you are!

What are some provisions in God's permissive will to protect His own.?

Divorce for infidelity, unbelieving spouse just leaves. Clearly, last resorts...