

# *I Corinthians*

## (16) General Marriage Commands

1 Cor 7:12-18

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.

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? 17 Nevertheless, each one should retain the place in life that the Lord assigned to him and to which God has called him. This is the rule I lay down in all the churches.

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1 Cor 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. NIV

### What about the ‘unequal yoke’? ...7:12-16

What is the marriage relationship Paul addresses next? 7:12-16; ITim.4:1-5

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What is the command *to the believer* (husband or wife) re divorce? 7:12-13; Rom.12:18

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What is the very encouraging *effect of the believer* for the unbeliever? 7:14

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But what if the *unbeliever simply leaves*? Then what? 7:15-16

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### Keeping our priorities straight... 7:17-40

What was Paul’s *universal rule* to all the churches? 7:17 Comment? 7:18, 20, 24

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What are the first (2) specific categories to remain unchanged? 7:18-24; Gal.5:1-3

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What are the next (2) to remain unchanged? 7:25-28

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What’s his argument on this? 7:29-35 See 7:29, 32, 35; IPet.4:7

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What is the next situation? 7:36-38 (difficult translation...)

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And what is the last situation to be addressed? 7:39-40

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***Marriage is good! Singleness (if able) is better! Serving the Lord is paramount for either!***

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### What about the ‘unequal yoke’? ...7:12-16

What is the marriage relationship Paul addresses next? 7:12-16; ITim.4:1-5

**This is a believer married to unbeliever (husband or wife). If both believers, see 7:10-11.**

What is the command *to the believer* (husband or wife) re divorce? 7:12-13; Rom.12:18

**The believer must NOT initiate a divorce as long as the unbeliever is willing to stay.**

What is the very encouraging *effect of the believer* for the unbeliever? 7:14

**The unbeliever is blessed by the believer! The Lord’s grace->believer spills over, + kids!**

But what if the *unbeliever simply leaves*? Then what? 7:15-16

**The believer is allowed to divorce. Marriage is not for evangelism! We’re called to peace!**

### Keeping our priorities straight... 7:17-40

What was Paul’s *universal rule* to all the churches? 7:17 Comment? 7:18, 20, 24

**Each one is to retain the place in life the Lord assigned. Salvation is no license to ‘jump’!**

What are the first (2) specific categories to remain unchanged? 7:18-24; Gal.5:1-3

**Jew/Gentile (or circumcision), and slave/free. 7:24, Remain where God has called you.**

What are the next (2) to remain unchanged? 7:25-28

**Virgins (men/women) and unmarried (divorced). Ok to marry, just not best, right now.**

What’s his argument on this? 7:29-35 See 7:29, 32, 35; IPet.4:7

**Time is short, present world is passing away! Unmarried is more free to serve the Lord...**

What is the next situation? 7:36-38 (difficult translation...)

**Father/daughter or engaged man/woman. Marriage is right; single (if so gifted) is better.**

And what is the last situation to be addressed? 7:39-40

**A widowed believer. Free to marry a believer, but probably better to stay single. 7:35.**

*Marriage is good! Singleness (if able) is better! Serving the Lord is paramount for either!*