

## I Corinthians 7

Probably delivered by Stephanas (16:15)

Coffman says 6 questions were sent to Paul and he answers them down the list – like listening to one side of a phone call.

1. Should married couples keep having sex? Yes [v. 1-7]
2. Should singles be married? Yes; Paul was special as some others were [v. 8-9]
3. Is divorce permitted for Christians? No [v.10-11]
4. When one spouse becomes a Christian, the other refusing the same, is the marriage binding? Yes – except when the unbeliever departs [v. 12-16]
  - a. “A brief digression. At this point Paul, having given an exception in the matter of mixed marriages, allowing liberty in certain cases, interjected a comment on the general rule that becoming a Christian does not free any man from obligations already binding upon him. Evidently there was at Corinth, even at this early date, some impression that becoming a Christian wiped out all prior debts, contracts, even marriages and all other obligations existing prior to conversion. It will be recalled that this very error was the principal motivation for vast numbers of knights and princes who participated in the Crusades at a much later time ([1 Corinthians 7:17-24](#))” (Coffman).
5. Should Christian fathers/guardians give their daughters in marriage? Answer: given authority to work out their own problems – no sin involved [v. 25-38]
6. May a Christian widow remarry? Yes – “Only in the Lord.” [v. 39-40]

### Verse Notes

1. “Good to not touch a woman” – reference to sexual relations.
  - a. Marriage a good thing – Gen. 2:24, Eph. 5
  - b. Celibacy is an option but not the go to.
2. Marry to avoid fornication
3. Recognize and fulfill sexual needs of one another (spouse).
  - a. “Prayer” Isa. 9:6
  - b. Done for a limited time for the purpose of reconciliation
6. Left up to individual circumstances.
7. Expresses the wish that all were able, like Paul, to live without marriage. Not for everyone
  - a. Paul may or may not have been married before – not married here.
  - b. Understands intimacies of marriage somehow.
8. Due to present persecution, better to remain single.
9. Better to marry if you can’t control yourself than to sin.
10. Jesus set forth marriage rules (Mt. 5:32, 19:3-9, Mk. 10:11-12, Lk. 16:18). What did Jesus teach?
  - a. Marriage is between a man and a woman – Gen. 2:18-25, Rm. 1:24-27
  - b. Marriage is instituted by God – Mt. 19:6
  - c. Only God can dissolve – death or unfaithfulness – Mt. 19:6-9, Mal. 2:14-16
  - d. Remarriage [permitted only in case of death or sexual immorality on the part of one – Mt. 19:6-9
  - e. If one departs, must remain unmarried or reconcile.
12. Still speaking by inspiration – see v. 40
13. If ever given a “me or Christ” option, always pick Christ. Mt. 6:33 – Christ always the priority
14. Sanctified: “... a past action with continued benefit.” (David Powell)

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- a. Believer exerts a sanctifying influence on unbeliever by living a Godly life – I Pet. 3:1-2
  - b. Unbeliever not saved by virtue of being married to a believer
  - c. Children—“spiritually legitimate”
15. Does not loosen the stance (see Jesus’ teachings in #10)
  16. Mixed marriage great missionary area
  17. Called through the Gospel. Obeying the Gospel does not free from a previous legal obligation.
  18. “Circumcision is nothing” – 3x [Gal. 5:6, 6:15]
  19. 3 things:
    - a. Abide in calling – v. 17
    - b. Serve the Lord – v. 17
    - c. Keep commandments – v. 19
  20. Remain in the calling!!
  21. Cannot devote 100% to both – serve God!
  22. Freed from sin in Christ
  23. Jesus Christ paid the debt, we are His servant
  24. Sum of the paragraph [v. 17-24]
  25. Virgins – of either sex. Jesus made no specific mention, still inspired.
  26. Based on personal distress – necessity imposed by external condition or by law of duty
  27. Neither to seek for a change
  28. Marriage is not a sin! Paul writes to warn or tries to prevent the tribulations of marriage (during current persecutions)
  29. Sense of urgency
  31. Continuation of v. 29-30
    - a. Worldly possessions not everything
  32. Writing to aid them to have as few cares as possible when the persecutions arise
  33. Give God the proper attention
  35. Paul’s teachings were to free them from distraction
  36. Father that gives his daughter does well.
  37. Father can also make up his mind to not give her away and that is ok
  38. Either is fine – due to the present distress, Paul recommends but doesn’t command not to give the hand in marriage
  39. Bound until death separates
    - a. Only time remarriage is mentioned
    - b. “Only in the Lord” [According to Powell]
      - i. Only a Christian
      - ii. Only in a way or manner acceptable to the Lord or in keeping with the Lord’s commandments
      - iii. Maybe both

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