

1 Corinthians 7

Paul now begins to answer some of the questions and concerns that had been presented to him by the saints at the church in Corinth. In chapters 1 through 6 he has identified some important issues that had to be dealt with before the Corinthians could understand his answers to their questions.

As we study this chapter I asked that you keep in mind the truth we have declared to us in Galatians 2:20, *“I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.”*

I believe that when Paul is writing to the Corinthians this truth is in his mind. Paul the apostle, evangelist, teacher, preacher wisely seen life from the view of a servant; notice how he introduces himself in his letters (Gal.1:1, Eph.1:1, Phil.1:1, 1 & 2Timothy 1:1, Titus 1:1, Romans 1:1).

Read and discuss Philippians 2:3-8 concerning the mindset and actions of a humble servant.

1Corinthians 7:3-5, 12-13, 21-23, 32 How is the mindset of a servant beneficial when applying these verses?

Verse 7 What does Paul have in mind (*wish*) and what is his reason for the thought? (consider v32,33)

Verses 10-17 Read 1 Peter 3:1,2 and 7. In 1Corinthians 7:16 and 1Peter 3:1 a greater issue is at hand than someone’s marital status. What is the issue?_____

Jesus said to the disciples *“in this world you will have tribulations, but be of good cheer I have overcome the world.”*(John 16:33). It is no secret that some of the biggest trials that people face is in regards to their marriage. From these verses (10-17) what is God’s desire concerning conflicts, staying married and salvation?

Verse 23 This verse is in part a reminder to chapter 6 verses 12,19,20. The truth being conveyed is essential for us if we are to have and maintain the heart of a servant. If we desire to please God and live according to His power and plan we must realize the impact of this truth in our lives. We gave up our rights when we turned our lives over to Him. We are bought and paid for! His will has now been set as the absolute, the standard, the driving force within us. He is to have control over my marital status, my desires, my plans, my fears... Consider once again how living according to Galatians 2:20 will change your outlook on life, toward others, and in how you serve Him.

Open comment:

“For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God’s” 1Corinthians 6:20

“And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave—²⁸ just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.” Matthew 20:27-28