

Singleness or Marriage?

Considering my Life in Christ

1 Corinthians 7:25-40

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[25] Now concerning the betrothed, I have no command from the Lord, but I give my judgment as one who by the Lord's mercy is trustworthy. [26] I think that in view of the present distress it is good for a person to remain as he is. [27] Are you bound to a wife? Do not seek to be free. Are you free from a wife? Do not seek a wife. [28] But if you do marry, you have not sinned, and if a betrothed woman marries, she has not sinned. Yet those who marry will have worldly troubles, and I would spare you that. [29] This is what I mean, brothers: the appointed time has grown very short.

1 Corinthians 7:25-40

From now on, let those who have wives live as though they had none, ^[30] and those who mourn as though they were not mourning, and those who rejoice as though they were not rejoicing, and those who buy as though they had no goods, ^[31] and those who deal with the world as though they had no dealings with it. For the present form of this world is passing away. ^[32] I want you to be free from anxieties. The unmarried man is anxious about the things of the Lord, how to please the Lord.

1 Corinthians 7:25-40

[33] But the married man is anxious about worldly things, how to please his wife, [34] and his interests are divided. And the unmarried or betrothed woman is anxious about the things of the Lord, how to be holy in body and spirit. But the married woman is anxious about worldly things, how to please her husband. [35] I say this for your own benefit, not to lay any restraint upon you, but to promote good order and to secure your undivided devotion to the Lord.

1 Corinthians 7:25-40

[36] If anyone thinks that he is not behaving properly toward his betrothed, if his passions are strong, and it has to be, let him do as he wishes: let them marry—it is no sin. [37] But whoever is firmly established in his heart, being under no necessity but having his desire under control, and has determined this in his heart, to keep her as his betrothed, he will do well. [38] So then he who marries his betrothed does well, and he who refrains from marriage will do even better. [39] A wife is bound to her husband as long as he lives. But if her husband dies, she is free to be married to whom she wishes, only in the Lord. [40] Yet in my judgment she is happier if she remains as she is. And I think that I too have the Spirit of God.

Road Map

- 1 The weight of opinion
- 2 Context
- 3 Consider this prayerfully
- 4 Now What?

1) The Weight of Opinion

Ver₂₅ "Now concerning the betrothed, I have no command from the Lord, but I give my judgment"

We Believe:

- The Bible is the foundational medium of our faith
- The Bible is the inspired Word of God.
- We believe that God used imperfect men to transcribe the Word of God perfectly through the inspiration of God's Holy Spirit.

1) The Weight of Opinion

- Therefore:
- 1 Corinthians 1:1 Paul, called by the will of God to be an apostle of Christ Jesus...
- Acts 9:15 "...he is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel."
- 2 Timothy 3:16-17 All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, [17] that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

2) Context

- **The societal culture of the day:**
 - **Gentile and Jewish culture valued marriage as the norm and singleness as exception.**
- **Corinthian culture placed a high value on being single and leading a counter-culture lifestyle.**
- **The culture within the Corinthian church.**
 - **The expectation was that people would marry.**

2) Context

- **Natural phenomena and disasters:**
 - There were 2 and possibly 3 famines that affected the region surrounding Corinth.
 - There were several earthquakes that had occurred in the area.

3) Consider this prayerfully

- Ver 25 “I give my judgment as one who by the Lord's mercy is trustworthy”
 - 1 Cor 7:8 “...remain single as I am.”
- “Now Concerning the betrothed,”
 - Not yet having taken the marriage vows.

3) Consider this prayerfully

- **The heart of the Apostle:**
 - ver32 "I want you to be free from anxieties."
 - The married man is responsible for providing practical and safety needs of his wife.
 - The wife is responsible for supporting and supplementing her husbands life and ministry.
 - The single person takes care of their own needs and does not have the extra burden of being responsible for someone else

4) Now What?

- **I'm Single:**
 - Whatever choice you make should be undertaken for the right reasons.
 - Prayerfully and thoughtfully considered
- **NOTE:** Singleness today is not necessarily a lifetime commitment. Creation is not static and neither may be your calling.
 - Some callings are for a specific time

4) Now What?

- **I'm Married:**

- Ver29 “ ...the appointed time has grown very short. From now on, let those who have wives live as though they had none,”

- **3 time periods:**

- O.T. Looking forward to the coming Messiah
- 0-33 A.D. Christ in the flesh
- *33 A.D. – present – Looking forward to the return of Christ*

4) Now What?

- **I'm Married:**
 - **Married Christians are to live their lives with Christ as the priority and not our spouses.**
 - **We are to not make our marriages of higher priority than our lives in Christ.**
- **NOTE: Marriage is static in that it is a lifetime commitment. It was never designed to be a short-term contract.**

Wrapping it up

- Chapter 7 is counsel for us on the choices we make after we've come to the Lord.
- Paul's "opinions" should be seen as Godly Counsel
- To be single is to be free from the responsibilities and concerns of a marriage partner, and free to focus on our calling without the distraction of intimate human relationship.

Wrapping it up

- The call to remain single may not be a lifetime calling, but only for a period of time.
 - Trust is the key element.
- We are all called to live our lives as though these are the last days, because they are!

