

1 Corinthians 7 – Marriage & Singleness

Take-Home Study Guide.

Context

- Paul responds to questions regarding marriage & singleness (v1).
- Corinth was sexually charged; Paul guides toward holiness.

1. Marital Responsibility (7:1-5)

- “It is good... not to have sexual relations...” (v1)
- Marriage provides God-designed intimacy against temptation (v2).
- Husband & wife share authority over one another’s bodies (v3-4).
- Do not deprive one another except for prayer by agreement (v5).
- “Now as a concession, not a command...” (v6).

2. Call to Singleness (7:6-9)

- Paul sees singleness as a gift (v7).
- Good to remain single, but marriage is wise if passion is strong (v8-9).

3. Marriage, Divorce & Separation (7:10-11)

- Command from the Lord: do not separate (v10).
- If separation occurs, remain unmarried or reconcile (v11).

4. Believer Married to Unbeliever (7:12-16)

- Do not divorce if the unbeliever wishes to remain (v12-13).
- Unbelieving spouse made holy by believing spouse (v14).
- If unbeliever leaves, believer is not bound (v15).

5. Remain as You Were Called (7:17-24)

- Salvation doesn’t require changing life status immediately (v17).
- Remain where God called you (v20).
- You were bought with a price (v23).

6. The Unmarried & Widows (7:25-40)

- No command from Jesus, but Spirit-led wisdom (v25).
- Marriage isn't sin but brings worldly concern (v28-34).
- He who marries does well; he who refrains does better (v38).
- Widows may remarry only in the Lord (v39).

Summary

- Marriage = covenant, intimacy, protection.

- Singleness = undistracted devotion to God.
- The main goal is devotion to Christ in any calling.