

## From Sinners to Saints

### 1 Corinthians 7:17-40

- Chapter seven is in the process of answering some difficult questions posed by the Corinthian Church about Marriage, Divorce, Singleness, and being a widow. What we'll see in the answers that God gives to the Apostle Paul is one of the first rules of Christianity, which is > be a Christian where you are! Meaning no matter what state you find yourself in, God has given us the parameters to live by that please Him.

#### V17-40

- **V17** shares this principle, as no matter what station you find yourself in > Married, Single, Divorced, widowed, God can and will still work in your life. The problem is our thinking, a many wrongly believe that they first must undo their past, in order to better their present, saying "I'll walk with The Lord after my station in life changes" but here in scripture it says "why not walk with The Lord in the place you are at now".
- **V18-19** he gives the example that if you were circumcised when you became a Christian fine, and if you were uncircumcised when you became a Christian that's fine also, those things don't matter, what's important is serving The Lord in the circumstance or situation you are in right now.
- So there is no need to become circumcised, for circumcision is nothing and uncircumcision is nothing, what matters is obeying The Word of God. This was important because the majority of the Corinthian Church would have been uncircumcised gentiles, and Jewish Law commanded that gentiles who follow The Lord and His Commandments to be accepted by them, they must be circumcised.
- **V21-24** in these days slavery was legal, some went into slavery to support themselves and their families, for once you signed yourself over then your master was fully responsible for your care. But even in this state, where a person is not free to do whatever they want, scripture says you still can please The Lord, so don't think "**if only if I were free then I could really serve God**" when even in bondage we should be serving The Lord, we see this today in prison ministries.

- For some it took them having their freedom taken away before they would surrender to God, and afterward their doing more while incarcerated than they could ever do free. But if circumstances changes and you are set free, then just as you served The Lord whole heartedly in one station in life, then do the same in your next station. In other words, don't let your circumstances or situation dictate the temperature of your heart towards The Lord, because although things change He remains the same.
- **V25-28** Paul had already spoken briefly about being single in **V8-9**, but here he goes into greater detail. They wanted to know what about the unmarried women in the church, should they be married? He says because of the present crisis that was going on referring to the immense persecution that had started up against Christians that it is better to remain in the state that you currently are.
- If you are single you probably should remain that way, and if you are married stay married, and those who may be divorced don't seek to be remarried. But he says if you do get married talking to the person who is single or have gotten a biblical divorce, you have not sinned, but he says you will have trouble in the flesh.
- **V29-31** this is not a license to neglect family duties, instead it's a warning about putting down roots too deep in this world, for it's a world that's passing away, so this is a reminder that marriage should be encouraging us that we have something better to look forward to when Jesus returns for us His bride, therefore time is short.
- With this kind of perspective we are protected from getting immersed into worldly possessions, and emotions, that get in the way of having a heavenly perspective on life. Because to not think like this will cause you to forget that nothing in this life is lasting except our faith in The Promises of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.
- **V32-33** practically speaking Paul recognizes that when a person doesn't have family responsibilities they are less encumbered than the person who is married, who must take into account their spouse as well as the children if there are any. Which as Paul says is what a married person should do, remember scripture says to not take care of your family is a grievous sin that destroys households > **1Tim 5:8**.
- **V34-35** this is not saying it's impossible to please both The Lord and your spouse, but what he is saying is being single takes that care off your plate, but when married there are other cares to take into consideration, that are not a priority when single.

- **V36-38** this is speaking primarily to fathers and back when it was customarily for parents to have arranged marriages for their children, but you can also see Godly principles for parents who have grown children whom they raised as believers. Parents should be involved in determining whether their perspective spouse is a blessing or a temptation, as the parent who raised the child, has his or her best interest at heart, when they do give their blessing, it should be a blessing.
- **V39-40** he gives some final instructions for someone who is a widow, that they are free to remarry but only if the person is a Christian like them. In going over this section don't see it as whether being married or single is a choice between good or bad, see it as which one is best that helps me to serve The Lord even better. In **Lk 2:36-38**- Anna who served The Lord without distraction for decades, then there's Peter who had his wife and mother in law serving with him in ministry > **Lk 4:38-39**.