

From Sinners to Saints

1 Corinthians 7:1-16

- Beginning here in chapter seven, this is commonly known as the second section of Paul's letter to the Church at Corinth, and after addressing his concerns for them in the first six chapters, Paul is now going to answer six specific questions asked of him in the next ten Chapters of the letter. The first question Paul will start to deal with is **marriage**, in **Ch 8-10- Christian liberty**, **Ch 11 Church conduct**, **Ch 12-14 spiritual gifts**, **Ch 15 the resurrection of the dead**, and **Ch 16 giving and offerings**.

V1-16

- **V1-2** Paul had already spoken about the dangers of sexual conduct outside of marriage, but the church wanted more clarity concerning sexual intimacy within the marriage, so Paul elaborates for them. Remember in Roman and Greek society sex outside of marriage was permitted for the man, but not for the wife, she would face divorce and the loss of financial support, so there was a double standard existing, also kids born outside of marriage were seen as illegitimate and due no inheritance.
- Now people brought up in Roman and Greek society are becoming Christians so they wanted to know what was expected of them within the marriage union. Paul begins by telling them to avoid all the differing landmines of this world celibacy is the better route, he's not saying to be unmarried is a holier state than being married, he's simply saying to devote oneself purely to the service of The Lord unencumbered and without any distractions to remain single and celibate is the better way.
- I love my wife and kids dearly and wouldn't want to live life without them, but that comes with a cost, I can't just sign up for ministry work without taking them into consideration, I just can't leave without making sure they are taken care of before I go, or I may not be able to go. Finances, health, protection, all factor into any decisions I make concerning my life, that goes with having a family. **V1** if your single its just you to primarily consider, so it makes things a lot less complicated.

- **V2** recognizing for most the immorality temptation, God knows for most that just is not happening, so we are told that each person can have their own spouse. “**Own**” means a monogamous marriage, so God’s word says a person is to have one spouse at a time, and that will be further explained later in the chapter, about divorce, and the death of a spouse and how the church is to go about all of that.
- **V3-5** in the previous chapter we are told that we have been bought at a price therefore our bodies no longer belong to ourselves but to God. In the marital union the same concept occurs, the bodies of the wife and husband are no longer their own, so each should render to their partner the affection due to them.
- It’s a mutual dependency here, as sexual love is a beautiful tool to build with and not a weapon to fight with, s the only abstinence that’s practiced is consensual to both, and it should be for a specific reason, that’s accompanied with prayer and fasting, for the spiritual must always govern the physical, lest the Devil creep in, and with him all manner of confusion and chaos, that’s meant to bring separation not unity.
- **V6-9** Paul is unmarried and most scholars believe at one time he was married because he once belonged to the Jewish high court and supreme council called the Sanhedrin that was composed of **70** leading elders, priests and scribes. One of the requirements for being on this council was one had to be married, this causes people to believe that Paul’s wife left him after he was born again. This would explain the strong language he uses for them who were once married now single **V8**.
- **V10-11** these answers are coming from questions that the church had asked him, so he addresses the divorce and separation dilemma presented to him by the Corinthians. Jesus had already taught in **Math 5:32, 19:9** that divorce was forbidden unless there is adultery involved, so as that as his background Paul expands the thought that even if she does leave that you can remain separated but for the purpose of reconciliation not divorce, that’s in opposition of todays laws.
- Today the law in most states declare one must separate for a time in order to be divorced, but scripture says one can separate but should be seeking reconciliation. So if there is physical violence, child abuse or endangerment, where separation is needed for someone to be protected that is addressed right here.

- **V12-16** there is a shift that happens from the previous group addressed where the couples both Husband and Wife were Christians. Here Paul is sharing what to do if one spouse is a believer and the other is not, remember many of these believers were coming out of unsaved and sinful lifestyles and were already married. So these are instructions for existing marriages where both parties were unsaved when they got married, and now one of them have given their life to Jesus.
- That being the case the Corinthians ask should the believing spouse leave and seek a divorce? Also what about our children are they also to be left? Scripture tells us that they are not to seek a divorce but seek their salvation, for just as God saved you He can also save them, and as far as your children are concerned because of your relationship with The Lord the blessings that God gives to you it will benefit them also, so the whole household is blessed because of the saved spouse.
- That's the positive, the negative is that doesn't always happen, in fact many are like I am out of here, this is not what I signed up for when I married you, its either me or Jesus, and if its Jesus I'm leaving. Scripture says don't fight, chase after, or hold hostage, just let them go, because you don't know if they will ever become saved. Later in the chapter God will address the single believer and their choice of spouse