

- I) V10-11 INTRO: Now **to the married** I command, yet no I but the Lord: A wife is not
Ch 7 contains answers for questions the Corinthians have asked of marriage
- II) In ch 7 Paul provides counsel for various groups in the church
V8-9 **1st**: As we saw, he wrote to **unmarried** Christians
There are three terms used to refer to those who are **unmarried**
They can be divorced, widowed, or virgins
- III) V10-11 **2nd**: He provides counsel for **Christians** married to **other Christians**
V12-14 **3rd**: He writes Christians married to **unbelievers**, wanting to stay married
V15-16 **4th**: He writes to Christians married to **unbelievers** desiring a divorce
- IV) When last together we closed with V8-9
To the **unmarried believers**, Paul recommended that they **remain single**
IN OUR DAY
- V) Some find this command harsh, and they move from one marriage to another
- VI) Some cannot **even think** of living alone: no sooner divorced, but are on the hunt
Sometimes they find someone **while they are still married**
- VII) Paul's counsel to believers is to remain single, and serve the Lord
We have an example of this in the gospel of Luke: Anna
Lu 2:36-37 Now there was one, Anna, a prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, and had lived with a husband seven years from her virginity; and this woman was a widow of about eighty-four years, who did not depart from the temple, but served God with fastings and prayers night and day.
THE FACT IS
- VIII) Being unmarried has advantages, especially in the area of freedom to serve
- IX) I still remember some younger guys asking me to go out for coffee after a study
1 Co 7:32-33
PAUL ACKNOWLEDGED
- X) Not all can live this kind of life because they have drives and desire marriage
Since this is true, it is better to marry than to burn with physical desires
- XI) The important thing is marrying a fellow believer (V39)
Christians are forbidden to marry a non-believer

- I) 2 Co 6:14-16 Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness? What harmony is there between Christ and Belial? What does a believer have in common with an unbeliever? What agreement is there between the temple of God and idols? For we are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I will live with them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they will be my people."
- II) Paul **is not** saying the desire for **physical intimacy** makes you less committed **Within marriage** the pleasure of sexual expression is legitimate
- III) Physical intimacy is blessed by God when people are married
It is God who gave the command to be fruitful and multiply
Pr 5:18-19 May your fountain be blessed, and may you rejoice in the wife of your youth: A loving doe, a graceful fawn— may her breasts satisfy you always; may you be captivated by her love forever.
- IV) Apparently some believers thought *being unmarried* was preferred over marriage
It seems they wanted to know if they should divorce so they could serve Jesus
- V) The answer to that question is a very simple one: no
Mal. 2:16 I hate divorce," says the LORD God of Israel
- VI) V10 Paul answers the question: A wife is not to depart from her husband
Paul gives commands which he specifically refers to as **God's commands**
- VII) To understand this we must know God's design for marriage
Mt 19:6 Therefore what God has joined together let not man separate
- VIII) *God's design* was for a permanent bond between a man and a woman
Ro 7:2-3 By law a married woman is bound to her husband **as long as he is alive**, but if her husband dies, **she is released** from the law of marriage. So then, if she marries another man **while her husband is still alive**, she is called an adulteress. But if her husband dies, she is released from that law and is not an adulteress, even though she marries *another* man.
- IX) Permission for divorce is recognized because of the sinfulness of our nature
Ps 51:5 Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me.

- I) Divorce is a **concession** that recognizes the weakness of human flesh
Mt 19:5-8 For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh So they are no longer two, but one. Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate." "Why then," they asked, "did Moses *command* that a man give his wife a certificate of divorce and send her away?" Jesus replied, "Moses **permitted** you to divorce your wives because your hearts were hard. But it was not this way from the beginning.
- II) His permission was because of His grace, but divorce is **not** His design
God **permitted** divorce under certain circumstances but He did not **command** it
- III) In the NT there are basically two reasons that can permit divorce
First: Jesus said it was permitted in cases of adultery
Mt 5:31-32 It has been said, 'Anyone who divorces his wife must give her a certificate of divorce.' But I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, *except for marital unfaithfulness*, causes her to become an adulteress, and anyone who marries the divorced woman commits adultery.
- IV) **Second:** Paul said it was permitted in cases of abandonment (1 Co 7:15)
- V) Today divorce is presented as a **normal process** of eliminating pain or problems
People act as if it is a natural, harmless event: But is it a harmless?
- QUOTE**
- VI) Divorce is **always a tragedy** no matter how civilized the handling of it may be. **It is always a confession of human failure**, even when it is the better of sorry alternatives.
QUOTE
- VII) The **major cause** of emotional problems and **detriment** to the family is **divorce**
Paul is exhorting Christian married couples work out their marriages in the Lord
- VIII) Divorce **out of convenience** is a sin
A person with no **biblical right** to a divorce has no right to remarry
- IX) V10-11 A wife is not to depart from her husband...and a husband is not to divorce his wife
- X) If a Christian divorces a Christian, **except for adultery**, neither partner is free to marry another. If they do remarry, it is to be their original partner

- I) V12-14 But to the rest **I not the Lord say**: if any brother has a wife who does not
What about marriages **to unbelievers**: should we divorce them to marry believers
- II) Some thought that their marriages were not blessed because of unequal yoking
Paul now deals with this, and says I, **not the Lord**, say
- III) What does he mean by saying I, **not the Lord**, say
Was he giving his own opinion, without the inspiration of the Spirit?
- IV) **No**,: his letters were scripture, writing through inspiration (Peter made this clear)
2 Pe 3:16 (Paul) writes the same way in all his letters, speaking in them of these matters. His letters contain some things that are hard to understand, which ignorant and unstable people distort, as they do **the other scriptures**, to their own destruction
HE IS SAYING
- V) Jesus did not deal specifically with this question, so Paul says **I am** saying this
Christian marriage was an entirely new arrangement
His advice is not found in the OT, but he is confident it is inspired (V40)
- VI) V12-13 If any **brother** has a wife who does not believe
First: You are not outside of the grace of God if your spouse is unsaved
Some were saved after they were married but the spouse remained unsaved
HIS POINT
Believers are to remain married to unbelievers who want to remain married
- VII) Remain married because God will bless you and your children
The children are blessed as God blesses the believing husband or wife
- VIII) We see an example of this in the OT story of Joseph
Joseph was sold into slavery and ended up in the house of Potiphar
- IX) Because Joseph was blessed by God, Potiphar became a partaker of his blessings
Gen. 39:5 From the time he put him in charge of his household and of all that he owned, the LORD blessed the household of the Egyptian because of Joseph. The blessing of the LORD was on everything Potiphar had, both in the house and in the field.
- X) V14 For the unbelieving husband is sanctified by the wife and the unbelieving wife
The marriage is recognized, and the believer is not under condemnation

- I) V14 Otherwise your children would be unclean but now they are clean
If both parents were unsaved, kids would not have witness in the home
- II) When they have **a believing parent**, the child has the chance to hear the gospel
- III) A good example would be Timothy
Timothy had a Jewish mother, but also had an unbelieving Greek father (Ac 16:1)
2 Ti 3:15 And that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus
2 Ti 1:5 When I call to remembrance the genuine faith that is in you, which dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am persuaded is in you also
FINALLY
- IV) V15-16 If the unbeliever departs **let him depart**; a brother or a sister is not under
Sometimes an unbelieving spouse tries to destroy the faith of their children
They may get tired of their mate going to church and give an ultimatum
- V) Resist compromising your walk with God, because it will not solve the problem
- VI) If **the unbelieving spouse** deserts or divorces, the believer may let them go
The believer is no longer bound and is free to remarry another believer (V39)
- VII) This is allowed because God has called us to peace:
Fighting, bickering, criticism and anger result, and God has called us to a quiet, loving life