



COMMUNITY
CHURCH

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May 23, 2021

1 Corinthians 7:17-40: Living According to Your Calling

Nevertheless, each person should live as a believer in whatever situation the Lord has assigned to them, just as God has called them. This is the rule I lay down in all the churches.

(1 Corinthians 7:17)

Paul is continuing to answer the many questions that Corinth had asked him regarding marriage, celibacy, slavery, trials, and how to walk with Christ.

Read 1 Corinthians 7:17-40

The lie that launches a million sins
(GOD IS NOT A GOOD FATHER)

Don't be deceived, my dear brothers and sisters. Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows... (James 1:16-17)

All of Paul's guidance and wisdom in this chapter would be for naught if we did not first start with this: God is a good father, not withholding good things from us, but instructing us because HE wants good things for us.

Here we are instructed in many practical ways to follow Christ, but without belief in HIM, and knowing HIS intentions toward us, we are prone to disregarding or shrugging of the tough love that Paul gives in this chapter.

He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of all He created. (James 1:18)

And this is the Gospel! As our good father God has purposed to bring us forth, as HIS own children, by the word of truth (Jesus Christ). This is the ultimate call on our lives, a new name, a better path, one that enables us to make sense of trials, temptations, and any 'present crisis' we now face.

But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. (Romans 5:8)

Listen! Listen! Listen!

Now about virgins: I have no command from the Lord, but I give a judgment as one who by the Lord's mercy is trustworthy. Because of the present crisis, I think that it is good for a man to remain as he is. (1 Corinthians 7:25-26)

Here Paul not only articulates to us his position on the question at hand (Whether to marry or not) but he also demonstrates to us how to come to a conclusion ourselves! By seeking an answer from the LORD, and when we do that we can rest well in what HE says...

"Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened."

“Which of you, if your son asks for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him! (Matthew 7:7-12)

Go where HE leads

*Nevertheless, each person should live as a believer in whatever situation the Lord has assigned to them, just as God has called them. This is the rule I lay down in all the churches.
(1 Corinthians 7:17)*

Single-hood, marriage, or celibacy are all good and appropriate choices for us to make in our own lives, but what should supersede our own desires, is what Christ calls us into. So by laying our lives down at Jesus’ feet, we find that the plans HE has for us are far better than the flimsy things we dreamed in our own power.

“If you love me, keep my commands. And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever— the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept Him, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him. But you know Him, for He lives with you and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. (John 14:15-18)

If we love HIM who loved us first, then we will follow HIS commands, when we have questions, we will accept and follow HIS answers. Here HE brings that truth full circle, with promises of HIS spirit coming into us, being with us forever, and that HE (the good father) will not leave us as orphans, HE will come to us!

Undivided Devotion to the LORD

*I am saying this for your own good, not to restrict you, but that you may live in a right way in undivided devotion to the Lord.
(1 Corinthians 7:35)*

The final piece to the proverbial puzzle! We are to live rightly, in undivided devotion to the LORD. He is a good father, who called us out of darkness and death, HE has good plans for us. So whether we are single, married, or waiting we live all out for HIM, for the gospel, and in that pursuit we find true satisfaction and joy.

I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out, and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full. 'I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep... (John 10:9-11)

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:6-7)

This life, one of undivided devotion to the LORD, is soaked in promises, of goodness, of peace, of things that surpass our understanding and keep us in times crisis. When we submit our lives to the good father of lights, who never changes, HE graciously promises us, HE is working all things.

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. (Romans 8:28)

HOME GROUP questions for 1 Corinthians 7:17-40...

1. Why is the principal of Godly contentment so important?
Read the following Scriptures and discuss:
 - Philippians 4:10-13
 - 1 Timothy 6:6-10
2. What do you think Paul means in verse 24 when he says that each person should remain in the situation they were in when God called them? Read the following verses in order to form your response:
 - Colossians 3:11-12,15
 - 1 Timothy 6:1-3
 - Colossians 3:22-25
 - 1 Peter 2:18-24
 - 1 Peter 1:18-19
3. During time of “distress”, why do you think Paul advised us to remain free of relational entanglements?
 - Luke 8:14, 10:40-42
 - Matthew 24:19, Luke 21:23