

“Play the Hand You’ve Been Dealt”

1 Corinthians 7:10-24

Fractured: How God Restores a Broken Church

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In the card game of life, we’ve all been dealt a “_____.” That said, whatever hand you’ve been dealt, it’s not like you get to play a different hand. Of course not. Your only option is to play the hand you’ve been dealt with.

This leads me to the question: What hand have you been dealt with? Circle one: Married to an unbeliever? Single? Divorced? Widowed? Difficult job? Financial struggle? Abandoned? Low social status? Difficult family background?

The Lord Jesus wants you to know... whatever hand you’ve been dealt with, you can _____.

- “Yeah, well I already live for Jesus! I’m a morally upright person. Never done anyone any harm. I love my spouse and kids. I help my neighbors...” In response, let’s define what living for Jesus means in the Bible.

Living for Jesus means actively ordering your entire life around knowing Him (Jn 15:4–5; Ac 2:42), obeying Him (Jn 14:15; Lk 9:23), becoming like Him (Rom 8:29; Gal 5:22–23), and participating in His mission (Mt 28:19–20; 1 Pet 4:10).

A common lie... is that we can’t live for Jesus until our circumstances _____ (dealt w/ a new hand).

- Do you say to yourself:
 - “When my spouse surrenders his/her life to Jesus...”
 - “When my marriage gets healthy...”
 - “I can’t live for Jesus because I’m divorced.”
 - “I’m too old now.”
 - “I’m just a factory worker. I don’t make a lot of money.”
 - “Once I get off third shift...”
 - “Once we’re financially comfortable...”
 - “When the kids are out of the house...”
 - “I need to learn more about the Bible first.”
 - “When I’m retired...”
 - “I’m not qualified due to my past.”

Believing the lie means...

Being chronically discontented,

Eschewing responsibility,

Undervaluing the current hand that was dealt with,

Wasting years away,

Comparing your life with others

Our main passage does not teach... that your circumstances don’t matter. Rather, it teaches that your circumstances don’t have to change before you can live for Jesus. **Let’s turn to 1 Corinthians 7:10-24**

1. VV 10-16... You can live for Jesus even when your _____ aren’t what you wish they were.

- Paul’s instruction is NOT, “Improve your relationships and then you can live for Jesus.” (1 Pet 3:1-2)
- *The point?* You don’t need to have it all together relationally to follow Jesus!

UNDERSTANDING VERSES 10-16

VV 10-11 – What Paul means by the word “separate” is “divorce.” He’s appealing to Jesus’ teaching: don’t divorce.

V 14 – “Sanctified” cannot be interpreted as the spouse being saved. V 16 makes it impossible to interpret the word in such fashion. Also, Paul’s use of the word, along with the word “holy,” is that of family members being set apart in a special sphere of God’s blessing due to the saved spouse/parent.

V 15 - The believer isn't required to desperately preserve a marriage that the unbelieving spouse has abandoned. This leads to the believer experiencing peace.

2. **VV 19-20...** You can live for Jesus with the life you have _____ . (Col 3:17)

- You should remain in whatever situation you were in when God saved you.
- The big question is, “Are you obeying Jesus in the midst of your circumstances?”

3. **VV 21-24...** You can live for Jesus regardless of your _____ in this world.

- Earthly status does NOT determine your invaluable worth to Christ (1 Pet 1:18-19), your identity in Christ, and your usefulness to Christ. (1 Pet 2:9-10)
- Also, don’t wait for circumstances to improve, e.g., a better job, marriage, finances, etc., before living for Jesus! *Live fully for Jesus right where you are! Today!*

Don’t postpone...

- ... serving until your schedule is more freed up
- ... radical generosity until you make more \$
- ... sharing Jesus until you know the Bible more

Faithfully live for Jesus TODAY, even with the hand you have been dealt.

DON’T JUST AGREE WITH THE MESSAGE: PLAY THE HAND YOU’VE BEEN DEALT AND LIVE FOR JESUS TODAY

- ☐ DECIDE TO FOLLOW JESUS — Surrender your life to Jesus Christ and begin following Him today. (Ro 10:9–10)
- ☐ ATTEND CHURCH CONSISTENTLY AND FAITHFULLY — This is a requirement for living for Jesus!
- ☐ ATTEND PASTOR'S DESSERT — Learn more about NVC, what we believe, and your next steps toward belonging.
- ☐ TAKE THE 90-DAY BIBLE CHALLENGE — Make Scripture part of your daily life. (Ps 119:105)
- ☐ GET BAPTIZED — If you've trusted Jesus but haven't been baptized, take this public step of obedience. (Mt. 28:19)
- ☐ JOIN A GROWTH GROUP — Make new friends and grow alongside other believers. (Heb 10:24–25)
- ☐ TAKE “SECOND STEP” — Sign up for this class and intentionally move forward in your discipleship journey.
- ☐ TAKE “DISCOVERY” — Sign up for this class and move from attending to becoming a member. (1 Cor 12:27)
- ☐ START SERVING IN A MINISTRY — You were saved to serve! Use your gifts and abilities to serve others. (1 Pet 4:10)
- ☐ JOIN THE NEXT BACKYARD MISSIONS TRIP — Take God’s kingdom outside the four walls of the church. (Mt 5:16)
- ☐ BE A GENEROUS GIVER — Don't wait until you have more. Contribute \$ to the Gospel mission today. (2 Cor 9:7)
- ☐ JOIN STREET MINISTRY — Feed and clothe the most destitute in our community. (Ac 1:8)
- ☐ SERVE THE FOOD PANTRY — Demonstrate the compassion of Jesus to people in our community. (Mt 25:35–40)
- ☐ ATTEND MEN'S/WOMEN'S/PRAYER FELLOWSHIP — Intentionally grow together in Christ. (Ac 2:42)

MY NEXT MOVE: _____

Don't wait for a better hand. Live for Jesus with the hand you have today.