

I CORINTHIANS

To Marry, or Not to Marry

I Corinthians 7:25-31

CONCERNING VIRGINS, SINGLENESS, AND MARRIAGE
1 Corinthians 7:25-31 (NASB95)

25 **Now concerning virgins**
but I have no command of the Lord [Jesus didn't teach on this subject.]
I give an opinion as one who by the mercy of the Lord is trustworthy [Paul was an apostle with apostolic authority writing under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.]

26 **I think then that this is good in view of the present distress that it is good for a man to remain as he is**

[The first century was a difficult time to be a Christian, especially a married Christian.]

27 **Are you bound to a wife** → **Do not seek to be released**
Are you released from a wife → **Do not seek a wife**

28 **But if you marry you have not sinned**
and if a virgin marries she has not sinned
Yet such will have trouble in this life
and I am trying to spare you

[You can live for the Lord while married or single.]
[Neither getting married or staying single is a sin, but being married is more difficult.]

29 **But this I say brethren the time has been shortened so that from now on**

[Paul knew he was in the last days, expected things in the world to get worse, knew the time of Jesus' coming for his church and the judgment of the world was closer than ever before (see I Tim. 4:1; II Tim. 3:1-7, 13).]

30 **and those who have wives should be as though they had none**
and those who weep as though they did not weep
and those who rejoice as though they did not rejoice
and those who buy as though they did not possess
31 **and those who use the world as though they did not make full use of it**

for the form of this world is passing away

I. CONCERNING VIRGINS
A. Christ Did Not Teach About Virgins
B. Paul the Apostle Will Teach About Virgins

II. BE CONTENT WITH YOUR MARITAL STATUS
A. Don't Seek Divorce if Married
B. Don't Seek to Be Married if Single
C. It Is Okay to Get Remarried
D. It Is Okay for a Virgin to Get Married
E. Being Married Is Harder
F. Being Single Is Easier

III. LIVE IN LIGHT OF CHRIST'S IMMINENT RETURN
A. If Married, Live as Unmarried
B. If Mournful, Live Joyfully
C. If Rejoicing, Live Solemnly
D. If Buying, Live As Not Possessing
E. If Using the World, Live as Not Fully Using the World
F. Live Knowing This World Is Passing Away

- I. When the Apostle Paul writes in vs. 25, "Now concerning virgins, I have no command from the Lord," what does this tell us about:
 - A. The question the Corinthians asked Paul about?
 - B. Where the Apostle Paul got the information he was giving them?
 - C. Why the advice he was giving them was trustworthy?

- II. In vs. 26, what was the “*present distress*” that might steer a single person away from marriage and why?

- III. In vs. 27 the Apostle Paul asks a series of questions and then gives contrasting statements. Keep in mind what the Corinthians were asking—they wanted to know if singleness or marriage is more pleasing to the Lord.
 - A. Should Christians get a divorce to please God?
 - B. Should divorced people seek to be remarried to please the Lord?
 - C. Is it okay for a divorced Christians to get biblically remarried?
 - D. Is it okay for Christians to get married?
 - E. What is the drawback to being married in “distressing times?”

- IV. When the Apostle Paul says in vs. 29 “*the time has been shortened*” what does he mean and how does living today, two thousand years later, make this statement even more relevant?

- V. At the end of vs. 29 and in vss. 30-31, the Apostle Paul makes another series of contrasting statements. What is the Apostle Paul saying? What does he desire for the Corinthians? (see vs. 35)

Prayer Topics

- Pray that all of us would learn to be content in whatever condition God has place us in, without grumbling or complaining.

- Pray that we wouldn’t make the mistake of thinking that godliness and sanctification have anything to do with the circumstances we find ourselves in.

- Pray that we would all seek to have undistracted devotion to the Lord.