

## Now Concerning Virgins

### 1 Corinthians 7:20 – 40



~ Our Spiritual Safari only reached halfway across the river of chapter seven in first Corinthians in our previous report. In this report, we're going to get to the other side. The institution of marriage is experiencing more than a struggle in contemporary societies. Our world of nonexistent morality has produced millions of illegitimate children, homosexual perverts who desire to marry, and a "norm" of unmarried men and women living together with no regard whatsoever for the commandments of a holy God. The divorce rate, even amongst so called Christians, is alarming; actually, "*alarming*" is an understatement – frightening and catastrophic are likely better terms.

In spite of myriad and endless seminars, a plethora of programs, and an over-abundance of book-writing directed at Christian marriage, divorce and sin of the sexual nature has grown out of control; and none of those things have deterred the outright disgraceful state this world has reached regarding this subject of holy matrimony. The most lacking and contributing factor to this debacle is a total and complete ignorance of the Word of God. Likewise, we have more self-proclaimed "Christians" posting random and fractured Bible verses - until it can be read at any given time in religious circles; but, the understanding thereof is as disconnected as the way those verses are posted. In fact, a correct understanding of Holy Writ is almost nonexistent in the modern church.

Our last report began with Paul speaking to the church at Corinth about sex, marriage and divorce; and, quite frankly, I am not a specialist in marriage. Unfortunately for me, this is where we find ourselves on safari. If you didn't care for our last report, I promise you that you will not care for this one, either. I am trying to remain chaste, and I want to avoid being crude or rude – but – we must recognize that marriage is a one hundred

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percent and total commitment on the part of both the man and the woman. I might add all the paperwork in the world will never be recognized as a marriage by God between homosexual perverts. You may want to write that down. Before we continue, let us pray that the Spirit of God will be our teacher now as we pray for understanding in Jesus Holy Name.

Marriage is an institution that protects the family and children. Using it as a front to legitimize and justify the disgustingly shameful filth of same-sex perversion is blaspheme. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools. People do not seem to understand this concept any longer in this world. Further, I saw a television program where a man and a woman meet for the first time at the altar where they are married; and then they have a few weeks to decide if they want to remain married to each other. Naturally, the participants were very, very attractive people. Unfortunately, what they were doing was as ugly as a murder scene.

Well, that's the philosophy we seem to have adopted but, my friends, that is not marriage. That's just another form of perverted sinfulness in another lame attempt to perpetuate narcissistic people into even more narcissism – to sell advertising, of course. See, if you are not a totally committed Christian marrying another totally committed Christian then you just don't happen to have a marriage; because the only other kind of marriage outside of a Godly union - is a marriage made in hell. Trying to establish rules and methods for the unsaved person to have a good marriage and get along with each other is as ridiculous as counseling a dog and a pig who you joined in marriage. What the unsaved couple needs is to meet our Savior and Lord Christ Jesus. Until they know Him, they can never know each other. Impossible.

In our last report, we established that Paul had been married, but never remarried. Apparently, Cephas had a wife whom he took around with him on his missionary journeys; but, Paul was obviously not inclined to ask a woman to live that type of life. Certainly having a wife and family would have made Paul's ministry totally different and, personally, I don't think we

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would have ever read a single epistle from the apostle Paul if Paul had been married.

Most people seem to have the impression that Paul was discriminating against women; but, it is actually Paul who lifts the woman out of the place of being chattel — a common slave — and up to the place where God intended her to function as the completing half of man. As we also saw in our last report, Paul spoke extremely tenderly of the relationship of marriage and mutual dependence, one upon another. If you have not read our last report, I suggest you go back and do so now.

When Paul preached the Gospel in Corinth, families were divided as a result of being forced to make a decision. So, what were they to do? – Well, this report is Paul's answer to that question, and he says, "*.... stay right where you are IF you can.*" If you cannot remain after ones conversion, and the unbeliever leaves the home – then let them go. When that happened, the abandoned party would be free to do whatever they wanted to do in respect to remarriage. That's likely what happened to Paul in his marriage.

This is not an easy doctrine to accept or understand and it is very harsh indeed. There is no categorical rule for this situation, and it must be dealt with on a case-by-case basis; because each scenario stands and falls on its own merits. We have to be super careful here because too many people — so-called Christians included — could and would potentially use this as an excuse to get out of marriage for the smallest of reasons; mainly to justify their own sins and lusts.

The wisdom Paul is going to instruct us on in this chapter applies to almost all circumstances, too. That is, if you're a Jew, don't try to become a Gentile; and if you are a Gentile, don't try to become an Israelite. The point is: just come to Christ. Trying to change is a complete waste of time. Circumcision is nothing — and uncircumcision is nothing, according to Paul in this chapter. See, most of the things that divide us believers today shouldn't divide us. Personally, I realize I can be a bit terse in my dealings with others, but I am only trying to mix it up and give us all a better flavor

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with salt. Unfortunately, I am *GREATLY* misunderstood by most people. If we hold to the deity of Christ and the fact that He died on the cross for our sins and was buried and rose again – then we should be all able to cross over *ALL* denominational lines. I was baptized Pentecostal, have attended churches that spoke in tongues, and which made an attempt – however lame and failing – to heal by touching other people. I have even had fellowship with Roman Catholics – although I wholeheartedly disagree with all of their beliefs. Unfortunately, what I consider being nice by presenting the inspiration of the Word of God as the Holy Spirit has revealed it to me isn't very nice in their eyes. They generally break fellowship and ask me to leave before we get very far. Well, that's where we find ourselves in this part of the Bible.

Not everyone is called to a full-time ministry — or even full-time Christian work. If you are successful in business then, chances are, that's where God wants you to be. When you become a Christian, there's no reason to just give that up willy-nilly. One cannot do both, either, let's be clear about that. In that case, your business *IS* your ministry, and it may well involve making money to support the man who actually believes God and who actually presents sound doctrine – and there aren't very many of us. Now, if you are a cocktail waitress, for example, and you have a conviction about what you are doing after your conversion – then I would advise you to leave that occupation and give it up; but not because I say so – you should only give it up if you have a conviction about it.

On the other hand, if you are a housewife, I just happen to *KNOW* you are not called to the ministry. You can disagree with me, but you'll be wrong; and you certainly have that right. If you feel called to go into the ministry you *MUST – MUST – MUST* be prepared to give up *EVERYTHING* in your life! Not many are called for that, friends. God's men are not celebrities – we're *SERVANTS*! If you aren't prepared to set aside everything you own, then you aren't called to a ministry of any type – and that includes all the musical type people, too, by the way. So, with all of that as a background – and before I step on any more toes – I think we can and should proceed forward with this report....

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***20 Let every man abide in the same calling wherein he was called.***

***21 Art thou called being a servant? care not for it: but if thou mayest be made free, use it rather.***

***22 For he that is called in the Lord, being a servant, is the Lord's freeman: likewise also he that is called, being free, is Christ's servant.***

***23 Ye are bought with a price; be not ye the servants of men.***

***24 Brethren, let every man, wherein he is called, therein abide with God.***

***25 Now concerning virgins I have no commandment of the Lord: yet I give my judgment, as one that hath obtained mercy of the Lord to be faithful.***

***26 I suppose therefore that this is good for the present distress, I say, that it is good for a man so to be.***

***27 Art thou bound unto a wife? seek not to be loosed. Art thou loosed from a wife? seek not a wife.***

***28 But and if thou marry, thou hast not sinned; and if a virgin marry, she hath not sinned. Nevertheless such shall have trouble in the flesh: but I spare you.***

***29 But this I say, brethren, the time is short: it remaineth, that both they that have wives be as though they had none;***

***30 And they that weep, as though they wept not; and they that rejoice, as though they rejoiced not; and they that buy, as though they possessed not;***

***31 And they that use this world, as not abusing it: for the fashion of this world passeth away.***

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***32 But I would have you without carefulness. He that is unmarried careth for the things that belong to the Lord, how he may please the Lord:***

***33 But he that is married careth for the things that are of the world, how he may please his wife.***

***34 There is difference also between a wife and a virgin. The unmarried woman careth for the things of the Lord, that she may be holy both in body and in spirit: but she that is married careth for the things of the world, how she may please her husband.***

***35 And this I speak for your own profit; not that I may cast a snare upon you, but for that which is comely, and that ye may attend upon the Lord without distraction.***

***36 But if any man think that he behaveth himself uncomely toward his virgin, if she pass the flower of her age, and need so require, let him do what he will, he sinneth not: let them marry.***

***37 Nevertheless he that standeth stedfast in his heart, having no necessity, but hath power over his own will, and hath so decreed in his heart that he will keep his virgin, doeth well.***

***38 So then he that giveth her in marriage doeth well; but he that giveth her not in marriage doeth better.***

***39 The wife is bound by the law as long as her husband liveth; but if her husband be dead, she is at liberty to be married to whom she will; only in the Lord.***

***40 But she is happier if she so abide, after my judgment: and I think also that I have the Spirit of God.***

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~ When we become a convert to Christ, we need to ask ourselves, “.... *are we free in our relationship to God?*” Can you put the Lord Jesus Christ *FIRST* in your occupation? When we consider this chapter of the Word of God in light of the local circumstances of the church in Corinth – whom this letter is directed to – we get a full-orbed interpretation for the day in which we live now.

Corinth was completely corrupt. Manhood there — even in that church — was compromised by every aspect of Corinthian society. When womanhood becomes corrupt, manhood will quickly follow suit — every time! That’s just the way it is. Some people in Corinth had daughters who were married to drunken sods who went up to the temple; and these people wanted to know what they were to do about that. Verse twenty-five should read “....*virgin daughters....*” And Paul just happened to know the commandments of the Lord Jesus Christ and what He taught. Paul had obtained mercy from God and that was the basis by which he said we should allow other Christians, who also knew the mercy of God, to judge our affairs. If you desire to be faithful to God then understanding this is *EXTREMELY* important to you.

The “*present distress*” Paul spoke of in verse twenty-six was the local problem in Corinth. Paul knew it wasn’t going to last forever. Likewise, the “*new morality*” of tolerance holding hands with lawlessness in the world today won’t continue — it *CANNOT* continue. Our house has already collapsed. It’s just a matter of time before all of those distressing things begin to suffocate. You can just write that down, my prophecy-mongering little friends.

I hope you’ll read this chapter very, very carefully — and then read it again. Paul is trying to save you from a headache in life. Let’s just keep this real; the sea of matrimony is a rough and treacherous strait for anyone to sail through in this modern age. It seems divorces almost outnumber marriages — and, honestly, because I always am honest with you readers, I just don’t know what to say about that. What I do know is that it reveals we are in a very serious present distress.

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So, Paul discusses several things with them “.... *in light of that present distress.*” There is urgency and immediacy in this chapter; I hope you catch it. All of this applies to many things that are common experiences of men in the world today; it is extremely relevant presently. Those things are marriage, sorrow, joy, commerce, and the world in general. The believer has a relationship to all of these things, of course. Paul says if you marry, there will be trouble – not maybe – it’s a definite. The unmarried person without children won’t have to worry about buying and changing diapers or cleaning up crazy food messes. Any credible marriage counselor will tell their subjects that the romantic period will soon pass. When the first months bills come due, the romance has a way of taking wings and flying away.

So, we end this leg of our expedition by asking – again – are you putting God *FIRST* in your life? Do you place God *ABOVE* your marriage? Does your spouse place God *ABOVE* the marriage? Sorrow is coming to all of us; irrespective of our wealth, health or age. Will that sorrow keep you from serving the Lord with all your heart, mind, body, spirit and soul? Is pleasure taking the place of your relationship to the Lord? Is your business taking the place of putting God first? Are you using the things of this world in a Godly manner? Do the things of the world control your life or does the Lord Jesus Christ control your life? Whom or what is first in your life tonight? The answer to these questions is pretty important, friends; in fact, they’re *ALL* important. Let’s read this chapter again now in His light ~

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