

Because God Hath Established Marriage

1 Corinthians 7:1- 20



~ In the city of Corinth, sex was a religion; and women were slaves. Their culture was a wholly male-dominated society. Marriage was a convenience; women were a commodity; and marriage was almost never an act of love. New believers of Christ in Corinth needed help understanding the proper, correct and complete establishment of God's viewpoint regarding sex and marriage – so, they asked Paul the apostle. Unfortunately, nothing has changed between the time in which we are studying and today; and a total ignorance about the subject of marriage permeates contemporary society – particularly amongst most so-called believers in our modern churches.

This is an extremely controversial chapter of Scripture. Honestly, because I always am honest with you readers, I just haven't really cared about writing to you lately; and I kinda' still don't – but the Holy Spirit has now prompted and led me to write this report and deal with sex and marriage in a very straightforward manner; so, that's what I'm going to do. This safari will actually get dangerous today; so, maybe you'll want to go read some other sickening sweet philosophy about marriage – there's plenty of idiot's dreams out there that have been translated into book visions for you of the world. However, if you have any holy light in you at all, you may want to share this report with some of your friends. I'm not saying I'm always right – but God is.

Alright, marriage is a one hundred percent total and complete life commitment — one unto another — between one man and one woman. There is no other way to completeness, satisfaction and joy in our love lives outside of the marriage vow and subsequent submission in body. When marriage is made on that basis, it produces the most fulfilling state mankind knows anything about. Not understanding this, in my estimate, is

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the number one problem regarding marriage in our modern society. The only proper motive for marriage is love; but we have young people who live together outside of and before marriages today who erroneously believe that they are living in an idyllic state of love. Well, they're not in love – you can just write that down. They're in lust. They just don't know the difference.

We live in a time when the morality of the Word of God is totally and completely rejected. Our last report examined scandal and lawsuits amongst the Corinthian church members; and primary amongst those lawsuits and impurities were divorces. The Corinthians had written to Paul asking about all of this. Paul took a long time getting an answer to them; but he gave them the spiritual apparatus which, with proper application, their problems concerning flagrant and overwhelming sexual sins could be solved in marriage. There was, obviously, no reluctance by Paul in dealing with sex and marriage — according to this chapter; but, he did wait — and for what I believe is a very definite reason, which we will consider in upcoming reports.

The first premise we must establish is answering this question: was Paul ever married? If the answer is “no” then all of this is just a theoretical explanation. If Paul didn't know about marriage from experience, then he didn't know what he was talking about at all. Well, the method of the Holy Spirit when choosing writers is *NOT* to choose men who have no experience in their subject matter; God doesn't do it that way. Many of you may want to make a note to yourself here about that, too, by the way. The Lord never chooses a man to write *ANYTHING* for Him who knows nothing about the subject firsthand by experience. Many people write presumptuously but, quite candidly, their usually just babbling idiots. Anyways, I think most people assume Paul was unmarried and I think they get that from verse seven in this chapter....

¹ Now concerning the things whereof ye wrote unto me: It is good for a man not to touch a woman.

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² Nevertheless, to avoid fornication, let every man have his own wife, and let every woman have her own husband.

³ Let the husband render unto the wife due benevolence: and likewise also the wife unto the husband.

⁴ The wife hath not power of her own body, but the husband: and likewise also the husband hath not power of his own body, but the wife.

⁵ Defraud ye not one the other, except it be with consent for a time, that ye may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again, that Satan tempt you not for your incontinency.

⁶ But I speak this by permission, and not of commandment.

⁷ For I would that all men were even as I myself. But every man hath his proper gift of God, one after this manner, and another after that.

⁸ I say therefore to the unmarried and widows, It is good for them if they abide even as I.

~ So, again, I can understand why many people erroneously conclude Paul was not married. Those people usually don't know — because they have never considered — Paul's overall background. See, Paul was a former Pharisee and member of the Sanhedrin. By de facto — all Pharisee's and all members of the Sanhedrin were married. If you weren't married, then you weren't a Pharisee in the Sanhedrin — period. How do we know Paul was a Pharisee in the Sanhedrin?

Acts 26:¹⁰ Which thing I also did in Jerusalem: and many of the saints did I shut up in prison, having received authority from the chief priests; and when they were put to death, I gave my voice against them.¹¹ And I punished

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them oft in every synagogue, and compelled them to blaspheme; and being exceedingly mad against them, I persecuted them even unto strange cities ~

The “*authority*” – the *ONLY* authority – Paul could have ever received would have been from the Sanhedrin. Those seventy members always voted on an issue and Paul *ALWAYS* voted *AGAINST* the Christians. I wrote all of that simply to establish that there is no question about Paul’s marital status. Further, there was an insistence in Jewish society for a young man to marry. The Mishna states and implies that, at the age of eighteen, an unmarried Jewish male is not a man. That’s one thing from the Torah I think we need to pay attention to. Be that as it may, I think Paul was likely a widower – or – his wife just didn’t agree with his conversion. I suppose we’ll never know about that, but we do know Paul was married. We also know he spoke very tenderly of marriage when he said, “*husbands, love your wives....!*” A bachelor doesn’t say that; and verse five of chapter nine in this same epistle seals the deal that Paul could have remarried if he had wanted to. I don’t think Paul wanted to ask a woman to follow him around in the type of ministry that he had been chosen to execute. Also, if Paul had remarried I seriously doubt we would have ever read anything he wrote....

⁹ But if they cannot contain, let them marry: for it is better to marry than to burn.

~ If we do not understand the Corinth of the day in which we are studying we will fall into the trap of erroneously assuming Paul is commending the single state above the married state. That is a truly unfortunate interpretation we see from many, many uneducated and unlearned authors of Bible prose. It just happens to be important that we know what we’re talking about. Corinth was dominated by the Acrocorinthus. That mountain with the ruins of a crusader fort on it still towers above the ruins of the ancient city to this very day. It is unusually high and on the top was the temple of Aphrodite which darkened the city like a hovering cloud. Some of the stones from the temple of Aphrodite still remain on site, as they were used to build the crusader fort that came later.

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Well, in that temple of Aphrodite one could get food, drink and sex. Sex was practiced in the name of religion, and they had a thousand so-called Vestal Virgins; of course, they were nothing but prostitutes. That lifestyle was the philosophy of Plato, by the way; and Socrates, who may have wrote some very lofty language, also told prostitutes how they ought to conduct themselves. See, the general theory of the world is that we can get rid of the desire of the body by satisfying it. It's no wonder Greek philosophy is still accepted by the world, but the Word of God is ignored wholesale. The extremes of Stoicism, Epicureanism and Hedonism are all still rampant in global society today.

A wife in the community setting at the time in which we are studying was nothing more than chattel – and she was expected to be a workhorse. The men, generally, had several wives who would be in charge of various household duties; and having sex with them was secondary. As we know, the Bedouins today still have several wives. It was and is considered a practical situation. The man in Corinth went to the temple because that's where the very young, good-looking women were. Naturally, the women could make a lot of money real fast in the temple – so, they did. They celebrated the season of fertility; and Paul condemns all of it — but they didn't welcome being told they were living in sin.

This is precisely how the Word of God lifts women up from a place of subservient slavery in a pagan empire to one such as Ruth or Esther in Scripture. This is how God makes woman a companion of man and restores her to her rightful place by his side. Most men like to say women are to “obey” them — but Paul said to the Ephesians, “.... *wives, submit to your husbands.*” The Greek word for “submit” means to “respond.” A woman reacts to the man is what it means. The man is the aggressor, and the man should initiate every expression of love. This doesn't only mean sexually, either; this means mentally, spiritually and psychologically — as well as physically. When a man admits that his wife is cold, he is really making quite a statement about himself. What he really means is: he's a lousy

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husband. Let's just keep this real: the man is always responsible for the condition of the marriage. Yes, I said ALWAYS! ~

¹⁰ And unto the married I command, yet not I, but the Lord, Let not the wife depart from her husband:

¹¹ But and if she depart, let her remain unmarried, or be reconciled to her husband: and let not the husband put away his wife.

¹² But to the rest speak I, not the Lord: If any brother hath a wife that believeth not, and she be pleased to dwell with him, let him not put her away.

¹³ And the woman which hath an husband that believeth not, and if he be pleased to dwell with her, let her not leave him.

¹⁴ For the unbelieving husband is sanctified by the wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified by the husband: else were your children unclean; but now are they holy.

¹⁵ But if the unbelieving depart, let him depart. A brother or a sister is not under bondage in such cases: but God hath called us to peace.

¹⁶ For what knowest thou, O wife, whether thou shalt save thy husband? or how knowest thou, O man, whether thou shalt save thy wife?

¹⁷ But as God hath distributed to every man, as the Lord hath called every one, so let him walk. And so ordain I in all churches.

¹⁸ Is any man called being circumcised? let him not become uncircumcised. Is any called in uncircumcision? let him not be circumcised.

¹⁹ Circumcision is nothing, and uncircumcision is nothing, but the keeping of the commandments of God.

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

~ There are many subjects we'll deal with in other places that we won't deal with at this time in our Spiritual Safari. Many men in the ministry have remained unmarried for years. Jesus said, *"some men were born eunuch's and some men make themselves eunuch's, and others are made eunuch's by men."* Either way, it is most definitely a sacrifice to be made. Most men believe the definition of a bachelor is a man who never makes the same mistake twice. Well, that sounds good, but it isn't reality. Paul hasn't laid down a hard and fast rule in this chapter; but it is very wise guideline to follow. Each case will need to be examined on its own merits, to be sure. So, we're just going to leave it at that for this leg of our expedition. I hope you'll read this entire chapter again after asking the Holy Spirit for wisdom, judgment and discernment; and, particularly if you're considering marriage. The most important thing I would have you take away from this report is that the important thing is obedience to Christ. We, as the church, are going to be His bride someday – probably much sooner than we realize ~

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