

## 1Corinthians – Week 29

### I. Review: 1Cor 7:15-24 – MARRIAGE; FREEDOMS, RIGHTS, STATUS

- A. Ministry in your marriage: mixed marriage
  - i. Your spouse in your first ministry after the Lord
  - ii. God has called you to peace, not enslavement
  - iii. Focus on serving, not leaving your marriage
- B. Lead the life the Lord assigned you
  - i. Remain in the condition in which you were called
  - ii. Avail yourself of opportunities presented
  - iii. You are not your own
  - iv. Don't become slaves of men, remain with God

### II. Continuation – *Engagements*

A. 1 Corinthians 7:25-28 (ESV) *Now concerning the betrothed, I have no command from the Lord, but I give my judgment as one who by the Lord's mercy is trustworthy. (26) I think that in view of the present distress it is good for a person to remain as he is. (27) Are you bound to a wife? Do not seek to be free. Are you free from a wife? Do not seek a wife. (28) But if you do marry, you have not sinned, and if a betrothed woman marries, she has not sinned. Yet those who marry will have worldly troubles, and I would spare you that.*

- i. Addressed to those who are engaged
  - 1. Exercise self-control
  - 2. Lack of it is not an excuse for immorality
- ii. Examine your present situation and assess whether or not you ought to remain single
  - 1. Have you left your father or mother?
  - 2. Are you able to provide for a wife?
  - 3. Can you accept the Lord's One Flesh Covenant?
- iii. It is best to remain in the situation you are in
  - 1. Remain married – don't seek a divorce
  - 2. Remain single – don't look to get engaged
- iv. Marriage
  - 1. Is not sinful - 1 Tim 4:1-3
  - 2. It is something good – Prov 18:22 - *He who finds a wife finds a good thing and obtains favor from the LORD.*
  - 3. Can be a source of many other troubles you would never imagine. You ought to remain free of distractions in your service to the Lord. Mat 6:33 - *But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.*

B. 1 Corinthians 7:29-31 ESV *This is what I mean, brothers: the appointed time has grown very short. From now on, let those who have wives live as though they had none, (30) and those who mourn as though they were not mourning, and those who rejoice as though they were not rejoicing, and those who buy as though they had no goods, (31) and those who deal with the world as though they had no dealings with it. For the present form of this world is passing away.*

- i. This world is passing away...
  - 1. 1 John 2:17 ESV *And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.*
  - 2. Romans 13:12 ESV *The night is far gone; the day is at hand. So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light.*
- ii. Don't let your commitments or relationships derail your first allegiance
  - 1. Don't use your marriage as an excuse for not serving in the kingdom of God.

- a. Your relationship with your wife, children, family and others should be a reflection of your relationship with the Lord. He is to have the first place in your heart. Don't permit a natural relation to obstruct your obedience to Christ.
  - 2. There is no time to be feeling sorry for ourselves or seeking benefits from "victimization". Focus should be off self and unto others in the kingdom and the lost. Anything tied to this world is passing and any of our concerns should pass along with it!
  - 3. Let not your happiness or satisfaction depend on the world and the things in it
  - 4. Although we live in the world we are not of the world
    - a. 2 Corinthians 10:3 ESV *For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh.*
    - b. John 17:16 ESV *They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world.*
  - iii. Don't get engrossed in civilian affairs - 2 Timothy 2:4 ESV *No soldier gets entangled in civilian pursuits, since his aim is to please the one who enlisted him.*
    - 1. Don't get distracted
    - 2. Don't focus on getting rich
    - 3. Don't focus on living the life of the world
    - 4. Such things will shipwreck your faith - 1 Timothy 6:9 ESV *But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction.*
- C. 1 Corinthians 7:32-35 ESV *I want you to be free from anxieties. The unmarried man is anxious about the things of the Lord, how to please the Lord. (33) But the married man is anxious about worldly things, how to please his wife, (34) and his interests are divided. And the unmarried or betrothed woman is anxious about the things of the Lord, how to be holy in body and spirit. But the married woman is anxious about worldly things, how to please her husband. (35) I say this for your own benefit, not to lay any restraint upon you, but to promote good order and to secure your undivided devotion to the Lord.*
- i. Live in Undivided Allegiance to the Lord – Rom 7:4 - *...brothers, you also have died to the law through the body of Christ, so that you may belong to another, to him who has been raised from the dead, in order that we may bear fruit for God.*
    - 1. All your other relationships should be dependent on your relationship to God, beginning with your wife and children
      - a. Developing a delight for the Lord – Psalm 37:4
      - b. Inclining your heart toward the Lord – Joshua 24:23; Psalm 119:36
      - c. Don't let your emotions sway you
      - d. Don't let the worry of the world distract you.
    - 2. Many things strive to compete for our attention in this world
      - a. They challenge our holiness in body and spirit
      - b. Luke 8:12-14 ESV *The ones along the path are those who have heard; then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved. (13) And the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear the word, receive it with joy. But these have no root; they believe for a while, and in time of testing fall away. (14) And as for what fell among the thorns, they are those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by the cares and riches and pleasures of life, and their fruit does not mature.*
  - ii. Marriage can be a big distraction or a big help
    - 1. A good wife is from the Lord – it is a good thing – Prov 18:22

2. **A noble wife supports and is a helper fit for her man – Prov 31:10-11ff**
  3. **Two are better than one – Ecc 4:9-12**
  4. **A chord of three strands is not quickly broken.**
- iii. **Be wise about who you get engaged to. Make sure you are compatible and not just emotionally attached or sexually attached.**
1. **Sexual attraction is not strong enough to hold a marriage together. It is a good start but by itself it doesn't mature since it belongs to what is passing.**
  2. **Spiritual/personal compatibility and an undivided devotion to God develops the strongest kind of love there can be to hold any relationship together.**
  3. **This is why we use PREPARE/ENRICH marriage counseling tools.**
  4. **Compatibility is the key to reduced anxiety, good order and undivided devotion to the Lord among those who are married. This is not only a principle for relationships but also for any other commitment: jobs, business, etc.**