

I. **Review:** 1Cor 7:25-35 – ENGAGEMENTS

A. Marriage is not sinful

- i. You must exercise self-control whether you are married or single
- ii. Examine your present situation to assess your readiness for marriage
- iii. Accept the Lord's terms for marriage

B. Don't use marriage as an excuse to opt out of Kingdom service

- i. The present world is passing away
- ii. Don't depend on the world for fulfillment
- iii. Don't let your marriage derail your first allegiance

C. Live in undivided allegiance to the Lord

- i. Marriage can be distracting when selfish
- ii. Marriage is a blessing when we use it to minister
- iii. We all become compatible as we strive to conform to Jesus

II. **Continuation** – *Engagements – Food Sacrificed to Idols*

A. 1 Corinthians 7:36-38 ESV *If anyone thinks that he is not behaving properly toward his betrothed, if his passions are strong, and it has to be, let him do as he wishes: let them marry--it is no sin. (37) But whoever is firmly established in his heart, being under no necessity but having his desire under control, and has determined this in his heart, to keep her as his betrothed, he will do well. (38) So then he who marries his betrothed does well, and he who refrains from marriage will do even better.*

- i. The ESV and NIV translate a certain Greek word as “passions are strong”. This phrase is subject to much debate. The NAS, NKJV and GW translate the phrase as “past her youth”.

1. Paul uses the Greek term *hyperakmos*.

- a. This term can describe either the man or the woman (virgin). The term is not found anywhere else in the Greek New Testament.
 - b. If the term is applied to the virgin then it means that she is almost beyond the typical years for marriage.
 - c. If it is describing the man then it carries the idea that he has strong sexual passions.
- ii. Engagement is a time to show your love by your purity
 1. We are engaged to Jesus and show our love for him by keeping ourselves from being stained by the world
 2. If you think you are going to get into trouble then marry – you are not sinning.
 - iii. If the context is about guardians or parents, who had a responsibility in giving away their daughters in marriage, Paul advises they are not sinning by giving them away in marriage to a Christian.
 - iv. It seems the weight of the decision lies in the person who has a desire to keep under control, so I would favor the context being a man who is betrothed, and I also speak from experience.
 - v. Whether it is talking about those engaged or the guardian of a woman who is to be given in marriage, the encouragement is that marriage is not a sin, as long as they understand Jesus' teaches about the covenant of marriage.

B. 1 Corinthians 7:39-40 ESV *A wife is bound to her husband as long as he lives. But if her husband dies, she is free to be married to whom she wishes, only in the Lord. (40) Yet in my judgment she is happier if she remains as she is. And I think that I too have the Spirit of God.*

- i. Marriage is till death. If anyone is freed from it they ought to marry another Christian only!
 - ii. Paul had encouraged younger widows to marry:
 1. 1 Timothy 5:14 ESV *So I would have younger widows marry, bear children, manage their households, and give the adversary no occasion for slander.*
 2. They were encouraged to marry to fulfill their role as women in the kingdom and give no occasion for slander - no hint of immorality.
- C. Food Sacrificed to Idols – 1 Corinthians 8:1-3 ESV *Now concerning food offered to idols: we know that "all of us possess knowledge." This "knowledge" puffs up, but love builds up. (2) If anyone imagines that he knows something, he does not yet know as he ought to know. (3) But if anyone loves God, he is known by God.*
- i. Because the Corinthians were purported to say "I have knowledge" as an excuse for certain practices that others questioned, Paul goes on to cover that, what tempers that knowledge, is acting in love because of it.
 1. Deep Bible study ought to be accompanied by the sharing of the good news you learn. The sharing of your faith deepens your understanding of every good thing you have in Christ (Philemon 1:6).
 2. The antidote against puffing yourself up is expressing your faith through love (Gal 5:6) and not *know how* only.
 3. Paul had already warned the Corinthians about too much talking and not enough doing (1Co 4:19-20).
 - ii. Just because you think you know something - that can become dangerous to your maturity unless you are completely humble and meek about what you think you know. Partial or human based judgment tends to manifest itself in criticism, wrong judgment, presumption, skepticism and paranoia. None of these are from love or the Holy Spirit.
 1. I like the words of the Spirit here: most of what we think we know is imagined, meaning it may not be very real or represent reality in God's eyes. Our viewpoint is extremely biased and partial. We can only go by what God has determined to be true and right. Anything else is just our imagination.
 2. What matters is knowing God is gracious towards us and that we can be secure in His love - this is what propels us toward maturity and towards knowing what we ought to know!
 - iii. It is not about knowing something but about showing how much we love God by obeying Him. Obedience is more important than things that depend on how much you know about something - that was Saul's problem. Just because he thought he knew something didn't entitle him to do something other than what God had commanded:
 1. 1Sa 15:22-23 ESV *And Samuel said, "Has the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to listen than the fat of rams. (23) For rebellion is as the sin of divination, and presumption is as iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, he has also rejected you from being king."*
 2. To love God is to obey Him, walking in love and turning aside from the worthless things that enslaved you before (1Jn 4:7-8; Gal 4:8-9).
 3. The really important thing is not that we know God, but that he knows us! - 2Ti 2:19.
- D. 1 Corinthians 8:4-6 ESV *Therefore, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that "an idol has no real existence," and that "there is no God but one." (5) For although there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth--as indeed there are many "gods" and many "lords"-- (6)*

yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

- i. Paul introduces the same argument he did in Romans 14 - there is knowledge and loving experience that makes faith mature.**
 - 1. The convictions of the mature are based on knowing there is only one God, and not being carried astray by what people think or do when it comes to righteousness.**
 - 2. Some used their belief in one God and that idols didn't really exist to engage in eating food sacrificed to idols. They proclaimed their knowledge gave them this freedom. However, that knowledge can cause others to stumble. We ought to be guided by love and not just knowledge.**
- ii. One God - One Lord**
 - 1. In Corinth most believed in polytheism - Greek mythology - Zeus being the chief god among Poseidon,**
 - 2. The Christian is not a syncretist, who attempts to harmonize the teachings of all religions. - Metz**
 - 3. Is Jesus your Lord? To call Him Lord means you are bound to please Him in everything, not seek pleasure for yourself.**