

³² But I want you to be without ^[b]care. He who is unmarried ^[c]cares for the things of the Lord—how he may please the Lord. ³³ But he who is married cares about the things of the world—how he may please his wife. ³⁴ There is a difference between a wife and a virgin. The unmarried woman cares about the things of the Lord, that she may be holy both in body and in spirit. But she who is married cares about the things of the world—how she may please her husband. ³⁵ And this I say for your own profit, not that I may put a leash on you, but for what is proper, and that you may serve the Lord without distraction.

³⁶ But if any man thinks he is behaving improperly toward his ^[d]virgin, if she is past the flower of youth, and thus it must be, let him do what he wishes. He does not sin; let them marry. ³⁷ Nevertheless he who stands steadfast in his heart, having no necessity, but has power over his own will, and has so determined in his heart that he will keep his ^[e]virgin, does well. ³⁸ So then he who gives ^[f]her in marriage does well, but he who does not give her in marriage does better.

³⁹ A wife is bound by law as long as her husband lives; but if her husband dies, she is at liberty to be married to whom she wishes, only in the Lord. ⁴⁰ But she is happier if she remains as she is, according to my judgment—and I think I also have the Spirit of God.

Footnotes:

- a. 1 Corinthians 7:17 *direct*
- b. 1 Corinthians 7:32 *concern*
- c. 1 Corinthians 7:32 *is concerned about*
- d. 1 Corinthians 7:36 *Or virgin daughter*
- e. 1 Corinthians 7:37 *Or virgin daughter*
- f. 1 Corinthians 7:38 *NU his own virgin*

Questions for 1st Corinthians – Chapter 7

1. What is said in the first verse of this chapter to let the reader know that a new section of the book has begun? _____
2. One of the purposes for marriage is to avoid _____.
3. Let the _____ render to his _____ the _____ due her, and likewise also the _____ to her _____. The wife does not have _____ over her own _____, but the husband does. And likewise the _____ does not have _____ over his own _____, but the wife does.
4. Husbands and wives are forbidden from depriving the other from the sexual bond except under what specific conditions? _____

5. What advice did Paul give to “the unmarried and to the widows”? _____

6. What were the unmarried and widows to do if they could not exercise self-control? _____
7. What did Paul command “the married” to do? _____
Was this just Paul’s advice or the command of the Lord? _____
8. What did Paul instruct those married to an unbeliever to do if the unbeliever is willing to stay with that believer? _____
9. What is the believer to do if the unbeliever departs? _____
Is the believer given a right to remarry in this case? _____ Prove your answer.

10. What is the repeated instruction to those “called” in various situations as seen in verses 17-24? _____
11. Since this is given as a parallel to Paul’s comments in verses 10-16, what must we conclude about the overall instruction here? _____
12. What “judgment” does Paul give to virgins in “the present distress”? _____

13. Are you _____ to a wife? Do not seek to be _____.
Are you _____ from a wife? Do not _____ a wife.
14. What is meant by “the time is short”? _____
15. How would having a wife cause an added concern and burden to a Christian man going through a time of severe persecution? _____

16. Give an example of a situation that may illustrate Paul’s expressed desire under the circumstances that they might “serve the Lord without distraction.” _____

17. If a Christian man is trying to decide whether to give a daughter in marriage in a time of great distress, what factors does Paul note that he must consider? _____

18. The wife whose husband dies is told by Paul that she “is at liberty to be married to whom she wishes, only in the Lord.” Does the term “only in the Lord” mean only to a Christian? _____ Is that instruction given at all times or in the context of “the present distress”? _____ Prove your answer.

Thought Question: Is there any passage in this chapter that gives the right for one to remarry after divorcing his or her spouse? Prove your answer.