

Paul's Epistle of

1st CORINTHIANS

Chapter 7a



Outline

I. Introduction (1:1- 9)

II. Dealing with Problems Reported to Paul (1:10 – 6:20)

A. Problem of Factionalism (1:10 – 3:23)

B. Problem of Rejecting Paul's Work (4:1-21)

C. Problem of the Fornicator and Church Discipline (5:1-13)

D. Taking Problems between Brethren to Civil Courts (6:1-11)

E. Responsibility to Glorify God with the Body (6:12-20)

III. Dealing with Questions Asked by the Corinthians (7:1 – 16:9)

**A. “Now Concerning” – Marriage and Present Distress
(7:1-40)**

**B. “Now Concerning” – Idolatry and Personal Liberty
(8:1 – 11:1)**

C. “Now... Remember Me” and Apostolic Tradition

1. Submission and Customs (11:2-16)

2. Pattern for Lord’s Supper (11:17-34)

D. “Now Concerning” – Spiritual Gifts (12:1 – 14:40)

E. “Now...” Concerning – The Resurrection (15:1-58)

F. “Now Concerning” – The Collection (16:1-9)

IV. Concluding Remarks (16:10-24)

Last Class

1st Corinthians 6

¹⁸ Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body. ¹⁹ Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? ²⁰ For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.

A Look at 1 Corinthians 7:1-40

I. INSTRUCTIONS CONCERNING THOSE MARRIED (1-24)

A. IN GENERAL (1-9)

1. It is good to marry to avoid sexual immorality (1-2)
2. Proper attitudes to govern the marriage relationship (3-4)
3. Abstinence appropriate for short times devoted to fasting and prayer (5-6)
4. Living single life with self-control is a gift from God, so unmarried and widows should marry if they cannot exercise self-control (7-9)

B. IN REGARDS TO DEPARTING FROM SPOUSE (10-16)

1. As commanded by the Lord (10-11)
 - a. A wife is not to depart from her husband; if she does, let her remain unmarried or else be reconciled (10-11a)
 - b. A husband is not to leave his wife (11b)
2. As instructed by Paul (12-16)
 - a. Christians are not to leave their unbelieving spouses (12-13)
 - b. Because of the "sanctifying influence" the believer can have on the family (14)
 - c. If unbeliever departs, the believer is not under a slavery bondage, so let the unbeliever depart – not compelled to follow them (15)
 - d. These instructions given in view of the possibility of the believer being able to save the unbelieving spouse – not always possible (16)

C. PRINCIPLES GOVERNING PAUL'S INSTRUCTIONS (17-24)

1. As the Lord has called each one, in that state, so let him walk (17)
2. The example of circumcision versus uncircumcision (18-19a)
3. Keeping commandments of God is point, not circumcision (19b)
4. Example of remaining as a slave if called as slave versus being free – general principle is to abide in the state you were called (20-24)

II. INSTRUCTIONS CONCERNING THOSE SINGLE (25-40)

A. FOR THOSE WHO ARE VIRGINS (25-38)

1. Paul gives his personal judgment in light of the "present distress": remain as you are (25-26)
2. If you are married, remain so; but those who are single would be spared much trouble if they remain so in light of coming distress (27-31)
3. Remaining unmarried enables them to serve the Lord without distraction, being totally devoted to Him (32-35)
4. If it is necessary, the single may marry (36)
5. The choice is not between good and bad, but between good and better under the present circumstances (37-38)

B. FOR THOSE WHO ARE WIDOWS (39-40)

1. They are free to marry, but only "in the Lord" (39)
2. Though Paul's personal judgment is that such a one will be better to remain single, which is also the advice (though not demanded) of the Spirit of God (40)

Questions

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”? _____

Questions

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? _____

Next Class:

1st Corinthians

Chapter 7:25-40