

*Paul's Epistle of*

# 1<sup>st</sup> CORINTHIANS

## Chapter 7b



# 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)**

# **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 married, remain so; if "free" to marry, not sinful to marry (27-28)
3. Coming distress will cause advantages of marriage to go away (29-31)
4. Remaining unmarried enables them to serve the Lord without distraction, being totally devoted to Him (32-35)
5. If it is necessary, the single may marry (36)
6. 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

12. What “judgment” does Paul give to virgins in “the present distress”?

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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? \_\_\_\_\_

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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.” \_\_\_\_\_



# Questions

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. What is said in the first verse of this chapter to let the reader know that a new section of the book has begun?

# 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? \_\_\_\_\_

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Next Class:

# 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians

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## Chapter 8