



1 Cor 7—Marriage and Remarriage

June 16

OVERVIEW: [1 Corinthians](#)

CONTEXT: The Corinthians were notorious for not making a clean break with culture and bringing that baggage into their relationship with Christ. This is essentially the problem they faced in a number of areas, including marriage. Two main principles were touted: that marriage was a super-spiritual state (the Jews) or that celibacy was (the Greeks). Paul seeks to speak truth into this wider situation and the problems it created in vv. 1–16). Here he deals with “the betrothed” and “widows.”

FIRST, A.M. SERMON RECAP (1 Cor 6:12–20)

- Again, what is sexual immorality?
- How does it harm?
- How does it enslave?
- How does it pervert?
- We’d do well to flee sexual immorality (v. 18). How does grace and truth speak to us if we’ve not escaped its clutches?

READ: 1 Cor 7:25–40

QUESTIONS:

1. *If you were giving a young person, widow(er) marriage advice, what would it be, hurry, wait...?*
2. *In a previous section, Paul had addressed the single, married in the Lord, those married to unbelievers, etc. Here he addresses the those young women of eligible age, as well as widows. (The wisdom could also apply to women).*
3. V. 25 (similar to vv. 10 and 12)- Is what Paul says less inspired than what Jesus had physically said?
4. V. 26- *This present distress could be a famine or crisis in Corinth, or the idea that Jesus could return at any time* (v. 29a).
5. V. 27- What advice does Paul give? What are the only two ways to be able to do this (v. 9a, 7)?
6. Vv. 28- *Though celibacy is an ideal for Paul (not because marriage is wrong), he also recognizes that many cannot control*

their desires and so marriage is a lawful outlet (v. 2) (marriage is also instituted by God and proclaimed good in Genesis).

7. V. 28b- What worldly troubles to the married have? How are single people free of them?
8. **Discuss the pros and cons of singleness and marriage.**
9. *Vv. 29b–31 seems strange at the outset, however, Paul is not condemning these activities but encouraging us to prioritize our relationship with the Lord.*
10. Vv. 32–35- What anxieties will husbands and wives have? Is there any way for this to be overcome so the spouse is devoted to the Lord?
11. V. 36- Why is it better to marry than to burn (v.9b)?
12. What does v. 37 mean☺?
13. *V. 38- Paul sees both celibacy and marriage as valid choices, though believes celibacy, for the one so gifted, is better. **How does our culture view singleness, marriage or other states?***
14. *V. 39- Paul now addresses widow(er)s.*
15. Aside from adultery and spiritual neglect (Mt 5:32, v. 15) what is the only other lawful end to a marriage bond?
Discuss divorce and remarriage amongst Christians.
16. **For those Christians who may marry or lawfully remarry, “she wishes” denoted wise choosing, but among whom (v. 39b).**

NEXT TIME: June 23- 1 Cor 12:1–11, Spiritual Gifts