

Marriage

(Part 4)
1 Corinthians 7

Instructions Regarding Virgins

(and the reasons...)
1 Corinthians 7:25-38

Verse 25 "Now concerning virgins I have no commandment of the Lord; but I give my judgment, as one that hath obtained mercy of the Lord to be trustworthy."

- Indicates another question asked by the Corinthians.
- "Virgins" – can apply to men or women (cf. Revelation 14:4)
- "Virgins" – here used to apply to unmarried women.
- Contrast verse 34 with verse 32. Used of a virgin woman in verses 36-38.

Verse 25 "Now concerning virgins I have no commandment of the Lord; but I give my judgment, as one that hath obtained mercy of the Lord to be trustworthy."

- Contrast between a direct statement of the Lord & Paul's own inspired statement. (cf. verse 40)

Verses 10-11 GENERAL *"But unto the married I give charge, (yea) not I, but the Lord, That the wife depart not from her husband (but should she depart, let her remain unmarried, or else be reconciled to her husband); and that the husband leave not his wife."*

Verse 12 MIXED *"But to the rest say I, not the Lord: If any brother hath an unbelieving wife, and she is content to dwell with him, let him not leave her."*

Verse 25 VIRGINS *"Now concerning virgins I have no commandment of the Lord; but I give my judgment, as one that hath obtained mercy of the Lord to be trustworthy."*

"The Distress That Is Upon Us" (ASV)

*Verse 26 "I think therefore that this is good by reason of the **distress** that is upon us, (namely,) that it is good for a man to be as he is."*

Used interchangeably:

*Verse 26 "Distress" (Greek *ananke*) "denotes a necessity, imposed whether by external circumstances, or inward pressure." (Vine's) cf. Matthew 24:21*

*Verse 28 "Tribulation" (Greek *thlipsis*) "a pressing, pressing together, pressure." (Thayer) cf. Luke 21:23*

"The Distress That Is Upon Us" (ASV)

Verse 26 "I think therefore that this is good by reason of the **distress** that is upon us, (namely,) that it is good for a man to be as he is."

Must be understood in the sense of verses 17, 20, 24 "abide in that calling." ... God has ordained.

Bound Versus Loosed

Verse 27 "Art thou bound unto a wife? Seek not to be loosed ..."

Bound (Greek deo)- "used metaphorically when spoken of the conjugal bond, to be bound to anyone (Romans 7:2; 1 Corinthians 7:27,39)." (The Complete Word Study Dictionary)

- Thus, a married woman is under the law of her husband as long as he lives.

Bound Versus Loosed

Verse 27 "...Art thou loosed from a wife? Seek not a wife."

Loosed (Greek lysis) "a loosing of any bond, as that of marriage; hence, once in the N. T. of divorce, 1 Corinthians 7:27." (Thayer, page 384)

(Greek luo) "spoken of a single man, whether he has already had a wife or has not yet married, 1 Corinthians 7:27. (Thayer, page 384)

Bound Versus Loosed

Verse 27 "Art thou bound unto a wife? Seek not to be loosed. Art thou loosed from a wife? Seek not a wife."

- > How may one be "loosed"?
 - Never married. Counterpart of "virgins"(verse 25).
 - Companion dead (verse 39).
 - Lawfully divorced (Matthew 19:9).

Bound Versus Loosed

- > Some conclude from these verses "one loosed, both loosed," therefore no marriage or remarriage is sinful. Remember truth always harmonizes with truth!
- > Herodias **bound** to Philip while **married** to Herod. Mark 6:17-18
- > Some remarriages constitute adultery. Matthew 19:9
- > Some commanded to "*remain unmarried.*" 1 Corinthians 7:10-11

> Verse 28 "But shouldest thou marry, thou hast not sinned and if a virgin marry, she hath not sinned."

- > Paul **IS** addressing himself to the unattached man who does not have a wife, and to the virgin, **NOT** to the **unlawfully** divorced who are under the restraint of divine law to be reconciled or remain unmarried!

Verse 28 *"But shouldest thou marry, thou hast not sinned; and if a virgin marry, she hath not sinned. Yet such shall have tribulation in the flesh: and I would spare you."*

➤ Such an unattached ("loosed") man or virgin does not sin when they marry.

- Never married. (verse 25)
- Companion dead. (verse 39)
- Lawfully divorced. (Matthew 19:9)

➤ **Although advised not to marry in view of the "present distress" (verse 26)**

Verses 29–31 *"But this I say, brethren, the time is shortened (cf. Matthew 24:19), that henceforth both those that have wives may be as though they had none; and those that weep, as though they wept not; and those that rejoice, as though they rejoiced not; and those that buy, as though they possessed not; and those that use the world, as not using it to the full: for the fashion of this world passeth away." (cf. 1 John 2:15ff)*

➤ Though Paul does not forbid marriage, he emphasizes that allegiance to mates must not interfere with allegiance to Christ. (cf. Luke 14:26ff)

Verses 32–34 *"But I would have you to be free from cares. He that is unmarried is careful for the things of the Lord, how he may please the Lord: but he that is married is careful for the things of the world, how he may please his wife, **and is divided.** (So) also the woman that is unmarried and the virgin is careful for the things of the Lord, that she may be holy both in body and in spirit: but she that is married is careful for the things of the world, how she may please her husband."*

Verse 35 *"And this I say for your own profit; not that I may cast a snare upon you, but for that which is seemly, and that ye may attend upon the Lord without distraction."*

➤ Married have duties.
➤ Paul recommends celibacy because it has more advantages in the present distress. (cf. verse 26)

Verse 36 *"But ...*

➤ *if any man thinketh that he behaveth himself unseemingly toward his virgin (daughter),*
➤ *if she be past the flower of her age, and*
➤ *if need so requireth, let him do what he will; he sinneth not: let them marry."*

Greek and Roman fathers had control of the marriage of their daughters.

Verse 37 *"But he that standeth stedfast in his heart, having no necessity, but hath power as touching in his own heart, to keep his own virgin (daughter), shall do well."*

In light of the present distress. (cf. verse 26)

Verse 38 "So then both he that giveth his own virgin (daughter) in marriage doeth well; and he that giveth her not in marriage shall do better."

Conclusion:

"Doeth well" – Marriage not sinful.

"Do better" – Remaining unmarried better.
cf. verse 26

Verse 39 "A wife is bound for so long time as her husband liveth; but if the husband be dead, she is free to be married to whom she will; only in the Lord."

➤ Permanency of marriage. Romans 7:2–3

"Only In The Lord" (verse 39)

Three Positions:

1. If widows remarry, they must marry a Christian.
2. If widows remarry, they must remarry "according to God's will governing marriage."
3. If widows remarry, they must remarry a Christian, but this is limited to the "present distress" (verses 26, 29)
 - a. Good for a man not to touch a woman (verse 2)
 - b. Paul's desire that all men were as "I myself" (verse 7)

"Only In The Lord" (verse 39)

If widows remarry, they must remarry according to God's will governing marriage.

"Only In the Lord" qualifies the manner of marriage, not the object of marriage.

Consider:

Ephesians 6:1 "Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right."

Colossians 3:18 "Wives, be in subjection to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord."

"Only In The Lord" (verse 39)

NOTE:

If one did not "marry a Christian" what would be the demands of repentance? cf.

1 Corinthians 7:12–13

Verse 40 "But she is happier if she abide as she is, after my judgment: and I think that I also have the Spirit of God."

Compare: verses 26, 28, 32, 35

Conclusion

Verse 40 "... and I think that I also have the Spirit of God."

Paul closes his instructions as being the divine answers to their questions.

Conclusion

1 Corinthians 7 is an exposition on marriage, not on divorce and remarriage.

One man for one woman for life, one exception ... is God's rule.

The only exception is stated by Jesus in Matthew 5:32 and Matthew 19:9

Nothing in 1 Corinthians 7 adds another exception or is inconsistent with what Jesus has stated.