

# I CORINTHIANS 7: Principles of Marriage

:1-9 Introductory Marriage Principles

:10-16 Marriage and Divorce Principles

:17-24 Calling and Status Principles

:25-40 Unmarried and Widowed Principles

## I Corinthians 7:1-9 Introductory Marriage Principles

“Now concerning the things of which you wrote to me:”

:1 “It is good for a man not to touch a woman.”

--Is this a quote from the Corinthian's correspondence to Paul?

--Is this the beginning of Paul's instructions to them?

Background- - -

:2 Marriage provides encouragement for sexual purity.

:2 Marriage involves the union of one man and one woman.

:3 Husbands and wives owe each other proper  
affection and sexual relations.

:4 Married people must relinquish authority over  
their own bodies to their spouses.

# I Corinthians 7:1-9 Introductory Marriage Principles

(continued)

:5 Married couples must not deprive their spouses  
of sexual relations except under the  
following conditions:

1. with mutual consent
2. for an agreed-upon time period
3. for the purpose of fasting and prayer

At the end of the agreed-upon time period of abstinence,  
the couple must

“come together again,” for this purpose:

“so that Satan does not tempt you because of your lack  
of self-control.”

:9 “For it is better to marry than to burn *with passion*.”

# I Corinthians 7:10-16 Marriage and Divorce Principles

:10-11 Divorce of two Christians is not allowed.

If divorce does occur, two options follow:

1. Remain unmarried.
2. Reconcile with former spouse.

:12-13 A Christian married to an unbeliever is not to seek divorce.

Reason: remaining in the marriage provides a godly influence on both the spouse and the children.

:15 To avoid further family turmoil, a Christian is to allow an unbelieving spouse to “depart.”

“God has called us to peace.”

## I Corinthians 7:17-24 Calling and Status Principles

:17, 20, 24 “Let each one remain in the same calling in which he was called.” (:20)

NOTE: --God is the one Who has given each Christian his place in life. (:17)

--Paul’s instruction is for all Christian churches. (:17)

TWO illustrations of the principle: (:18-19, 21-23)

--Circumcision/uncircumcision (:18-19)

--Slaves/free (:21-23)

NB v. 23

“The Corinthians were not to seek a supposedly better spiritual standing by changing their marital, social, or religious status.”  
(Robert Hughes)

“... a principle that gives coherence to the whole chapter: becoming a believer does not require a change in status, whether marital, ethnic, or social (vv. 8, 20, 26).” (Geneva Study Bible)

# I Cor. 7:25-40 Unmarried and Widowed Principles

## UNMARRIED--:25-38

### Special Considerations:

--The present distress (constraint) :26

--The resultant shortening of time :29

--The passing-away world :31

:25-28 Both marriage and singleness are acceptable.

The married, however, do face “present constraints”  
and “trouble in the flesh.” (:26, 28)

:29-31 All Christians should be given over to whole-souled  
commitment to the Lord.

:32-35      Singleness provides some advantages concerning devotion to Christ.

--The single Christian can be singly-focused on pleasing the Lord. (:32 and 34)

--The married man is doubly-focused:

pleasing the Lord AND on

pleasing his wife.

--The married woman is doubly-focused:

pleasing the Lord AND on

pleasing her husband.

:36-38      Both marriage and singleness are acceptable. (“well”)

:36    Virgin---virgin daughter

:37-38    Virgin---virgin daughter    OR

personal virginity

WIDOWS--:39-40

Widows are free to marry, “only in the Lord”.