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
“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.**
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.
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.

Both marriage and singleness are acceptable. (“well”)

Virgin---virgin daughter

Virgin---virgin daughter OR personal virginity

WIDOWS--:39-40

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

WIDOWS--:39-40