

# The Church at Corinth - 1 Corinthians

## Chapter 7

As we look at Chapter 7, Paul is specifically addressing concerns that the believers at Corinth had brought to his attention by letter. He deals with their concerns in order. Let's study this awesome Chapter.

### Marry or Not?

- Vs. 1: "It is good for a man not to touch a woman...": This verse must be understood in the context of serving the Lord. Paul is pointing toward the advantages of being single and serving the Lord.
- NOTE: Paul is not teaching against marriage. He is merely letting them know that each of us should abide in our calling (vs. 7, 9, 26; Mat. 19:11-12; Gen. 2:18, Rom. 7:4; Eph. 5:28-33; 1 Tim. 4:3; Heb. 13:4)
  - Jewish custom was that if you were not married by age 20, you were looked upon as breaking God's commands (Gen. 1:22, 1 Sam. 1:2)
- If sexual desires are a concern, then every man should marry and have intimacy with his own wife and every woman with her own husband. – vs. 2
- Note: Look at what Paul says about himself
  - He is a Jew of the Jews
  - He was a Pharisee of the Pharisees (Acts. 23:6)

### Intimacy Responsibilities of the Married

- To render due benevolence: fulfill intimacy needs of spouse
- Vs. 4: You are out of order to operate autonomous of your spouse and without communication withhold from your spouse.
  - Defraud (apostereō: to rob, withhold)
    - With consent: requires healthy communication
  - But come together again
    - Why? So satan can't tempt you for your lack of self control

### On Divorce (vs. 10-11)

- Paul teaches that the two should remain together
  - Note that Paul is talking first in reference of Christian marriage
- Divorce was never God's will for us  
Mat. 19:3-9; Mark 10:2-12; Luke 16:18; Mal. 2

### I'm Married To An Unbeliever (vs. 12-16)

- Paul notes that he is speaking here
  - However, 2 Tim. 3:16
- Stay if they are pleased to dwell with you
  - In Old Testament, Jewish people were commanded to put away heathen wives and children (Ezra 10:2-3; Neh. 13:23-25)
  - But, Paul says that because one spouse has been converted in itself is not justification for divorce
  - PLEASE NOTE HE IS TALKING ABOUT THOSE WHO WERE BOTH UNSAVED WHEN MARRIED – NOT SAVED FOLK MARRYING UNSAVED FOLK!! (2 Cor. 6:14)

Your conversion may lead to their salvation -

- If they leave, you are free
  - Sinners are not committed to live by God's Word, you are

# The Church at Corinth - 1 Corinthians 1-7

## *Why Can't We All Get Along? (Cpts. 1-7)*

Unity is a powerful weapon. There has always been times throughout history that men and women have been able to accomplish mighty tasks because they worked together in unity. However, a lack of unity can have terrible consequences.

Tonight, I want to speak to you all from the topic "Why Can't We All Get Along?"

**Unity: the state of being one; singleness; agreement; harmony**

### **The Power of Unity**

- Unity is the difference between being good and being great. (Deut. 32:30)
- God honors unity (Mat. 18:19)
- There is tremendous power for good or for evil in unity (Gen. 11:1-9)

### **There can be no unity without union.**

- We underestimate the power of union. It is crucial who you are connected to. Your destiny can be hindered by the connections you have.  
1 Cor. 5:9; 1 Cor. 6:15-17, Eph. 5:11

### **Illegitimacy is the fruit of a disunion**

Heb. 12:6-8; Gen. 17:15-21

### **Separation always precedes unity**

2 Cor. 6:14,17

- You will never be joined to the Lord without first separating yourself from the world.
- You will never be joined to your spouse without first separating yourself from your family – Gen. 2:24
- There will never be unity in the Church until all its leaders submit to the Lordship of Jesus Christ – 1 Cor. 3:5

### **Our objective is to live in unity, not merely come to unity**

Psa. 133: 1 dwell: yaw-shab': to remain; to settle

### **Unity precedes the blessing**

- Even in marriage, the fruit of the womb is the offspring of union.
- Psa. 133:3

### **Unity is necessary for the outpouring of the Spirit of God**

Mat. 18:20; Acts 2