

I CORINTHIANS 7

PART 3

MARRIAGE

REVIEW AND SUMMARY



I CORINTHIANS 7

Review

- Marriage was created by God in the Garden of Eden.
- Marriage = for one man, one woman, for a lifetime.
- Marriage given to all mankind.
- Marriage is God's framework for Godly parents to have and raise Godly children.
- Marriage provides physical, intellectual, emotional and spiritual companionship in a way no other human relationship can.



I CORINTHIANS 7

Review

Marriage is a blessing

Marriage gives constant opportunity to display and witness love (the *greatest* of all things) in action.

Colossians 3:12–15

Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye. And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness. And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful.

See also Ephesians 4:1–4, Ecclesiastes 4:9–11

I CORINTHIANS 7

Review

- In marriage the husband and wife have different, but complimentary, responsibilities for which God has created them.
 - The husband is responsible for, among other things, the leadership of the family and to love and lead his family as Christ loves and leads the Church.
 - The wife is responsible for, among other things, bearing children, guiding the household and loving her family as Christ loves the Church.
- Both should strive to have their marriage reflect God's relationship with His Bride.



I CORINTHIANS 7

Review

For the Married

- Stay married except in cases where it is not possible.
- Love, honor, cherish and serve each other – helping your spouse and children wherever possible in their service to God.
- Do not allow marital responsibilities prevent your fervent and deliberate service to God.
- Raise your children in The Lord, providing loving instruction and example.
- Enjoy each other as God enjoys you.



I CORINTHIANS 7

Review

Marriage ends when

- The death of a spouse
 - Frees the other to marry another believer if they so desire.
- Divorce
 - Ending a marriage for specific reasons.
 - Grace, NOT an escape clause.



I CORINTHIANS 7

Review - Divorce

- God hates divorce. God does not command divorce *under any circumstances*.
- Most divorces are unbiblical.
- Two main patterns of sin that lead to unbiblical divorce.
 1. Entering into an improper marriage (which usually leads to the 2nd problem).
 2. Unwillingness to lovingly, humbly and patiently do the work required to restore a fractured marriage.



I CORINTHIANS 7

Review - Divorce

- Divorce, *initiated by the believer*, is *permitted* (not commanded) in the circumstances of adultery or spousal abandonment.
 - In this case the marriage is dissolved, and they are free to remarry others (believers marry believers).
- If two believers divorce, they should remain unmarried or remarry each other.
 - If one of them marries someone else, then they cannot remarry each other.
- If a nonbeliever divorces a believer, the believer is free to remarry another believer.



I CORINTHIANS 7

Review

For the Unmarried

- Stay unmarried if you are able.
 - Don't get married just because it seems the 'thing to do'.
 - Most will marry, but it is not required.
- Parents, don't force your children to marry.
- If you do marry:
 - Marry only other Christians, as God commands - someone that will walk with you as you both serve God and each other.
 - Determine in your spirit, before you marry, to eagerly fulfill your responsibilities as spouse and parent without neglecting your duties in service to God.



I CORINTHIANS 7

Review

For the Unmarried

- Jewish and Gentile believers can marry each other.
- There will be fewer competing priorities for the unmarried as they strive to serve The Lord in all they do.



I CORINTHIANS 7

Review

- **Married or not**, the daily life of a Christian must be characterized by love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance and such the like.
- This will take a lifetime of **Spirit filled discipline and effort** that will yield joys and rewards beyond imagination! (some tough times too)

Colossians 3:23–24

And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ.

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ENJOY THE
REST OF THE
SABBATH



Matthew Henry's concise commentary – 1 Cor 7:1-9

The apostle tells the Corinthians that it was good, in that juncture of time, for Christians to keep themselves single. Yet he says that marriage, and the comforts of that state, are settled by Divine wisdom. Though none may break the law of God, yet that perfect rule leaves men at liberty to serve him in the way most suited to their powers and circumstances, of which others often are very unfit judges. All must determine for themselves, seeking counsel from God how they ought to act.

Matthew Henry's concise commentary – 1 Cor 7:10-16

Man and wife must not separate for any other cause than what Christ allows. Divorce, at that time, was very common among both Jews and Gentiles, on very slight pretexts. Marriage is a Divine institution; and is an engagement for life, by God's appointment. We are bound, as much as in us lies, to live peaceably with all men, Rom 12:18, therefore to promote the peace and comfort of our nearest relatives, though unbelievers.

Matthew Henry's concise commentary – 1 Cor 7:10-16

It should be the labour and study of those who are married, to make each other as easy and happy as possible. Should a Christian desert a husband or wife, when there is opportunity to give the greatest proof of love? Stay, and labour heartily for the conversion of thy relative. In every state and relation the Lord has called us to peace; and every thing should be done to promote harmony, as far as truth and holiness will permit.

Matthew Henry's concise commentary – 1 Cor 7:17-24

The rules of Christianity reach every condition; and in every state a man may live so as to be a credit to it. It is the duty of every Christian to be content with his lot, and to conduct himself in his rank and place as becomes a Christian. Our comfort and happiness depend on what we are to Christ, not what we are in the world. No man should think to make his faith or religion, an argument to break through any natural or civil obligations. He should quietly and contentedly abide in the condition in which he is placed by Divine Providence.

Matthew Henry's concise commentary – 1 Cor 7:25-35

Considering the distress of those times, the unmarried state was best. Notwithstanding, the apostle does not condemn marriage. How opposite are those to the apostle Paul who forbid many to marry, and entangle them with vows to remain single, whether they ought to do so or not! He exhorts all Christians to holy indifference toward the world. As to relations; they must not set their hearts on the comforts of the state. As to afflictions; they must not indulge the sorrow of the world: even in sorrow the heart may be joyful.

Matthew Henry's concise commentary – 1 Cor 7:25-35

As to worldly enjoyments; here is not their rest. As to worldly employment; those that prosper in trade, and increase in wealth, should hold their possessions as though they held them not. As to all worldly concerns; they must keep the world out of their hearts, that they may not abuse it when they have it in their hands. All worldly things are show; nothing solid. All will be quickly gone. Wise concern about worldly interests is a duty; but to be full of care, to have anxious and perplexing care, is a sin. By this maxim the apostle solves the case whether it were advisable to marry.

Matthew Henry's concise commentary – 1 Cor 7:25-35

That condition of life is best for every man, which is best for his soul, and keeps him most clear of the cares and snares of the world. Let us reflect on the advantages and snares of our own condition in life; that we may improve the one, and escape as far as possible all injury from the other. And whatever cares press upon the mind, let time still be kept for the things of the Lord.