

**ACCM**

**Bible Study:** Tuesday, November 3, 2020. **Topic: Letter to the Corinthians Part 7**

INTRODUCTION: As we study the letter to the Corinthians, we must have one picture in mind that these are letters to young believers who were living according to other patterns. Therefore, Apostle Paul needed to address so many confusing issues which he did not talk about when he was with them. Issues like sexual immorality, sexual obligations to each other as husbands and wives, food sacrificed to idols etc. The end of Chapter 6 is a good way to transition into chapter 7.

In chapter 7, it appears a letter was previously written to Apostle Paul concerning many issues, one been the sexual behavior and relationship in marriage. The Corinthians were a very interesting people, perhaps like the average sincere young believer today. Ancient rumor has it that perhaps one of the reasons behind chapter 7 were the muddled up stories about marriage as a believer. Some might have said as a believer sexual relationship was no longer necessary unless perhaps for procreation. And if you therefore indulge in sexual activities for any other reason, you are living in sin. Others were beginning to consider whether to do away with their spouses who were not believers. Some on the other hand felt there was no need to get married at all. You think for a moment what might happen to a couple who lives in the same house but have decided to abstain permanently from sexual relationship. These and other confusions, Apostle Paul sought to put straight in Chapter 7 of the first letter to the Corinthians.

I Cor 7:1-9

In this section the apostle dealt with the matter of celibacy.

As he trashed out this issue he sought to align God’s desire for His Children in marriage by

1. Eliminating immorality in marriage verse 1
2. Does the direction that each man should have his wife and each woman should have her husband imply monogamy?
3. In marriage you lose some of your individual rights. Your desire should now be to please your partner.
4. Spouses are not to deny their partners their obligations. **What are these obligations?** verse 3-4 (Ex 21:10 tells us that there are marital rights)
5. **Does this conflicts with the present day’s culture of individuality?**
6. **If you knew that you are going to lose some of your individual rights to your body, your money and some other personal things, will you still marry?**
7. Apostle Paul sets out certain instructions in verse 5 but can we explain verse 6
8. **What are the two gifts mentioned in 7?** Celibacy and Marriage. So should any of them be forced on a person?
9. **Is anything wrong with celibacy or marriage?** Matt 19:10-12
10. **Why do you think verses 8 and 9 are outside our control?** If they were to be within our control and we chose not to marry, we may negate the command of God in Gen 1:28.

**What are the reasons for marriage?**

1. To stop sexual immorality, I Cor 7:36, Matt 19:12b Gen 1:28, 9:
2. For procreation – Gen 1:28, -1, 7
3. For effective collaboration and better results. Ecc. 4:9-12
4. For companionship – Gen 2:18-23
5. For conjugal satisfaction. I Cor 7:5
6. To raise godly seeds I Cor 7:14, Gen 18:19

Apostle Paul said it is not bad to be married to be unmarried. He actually said it is better. However, he advised that you will be in disobedience if you choose not to marry but begin to philander.

DIVORCE

I Cor 7:10-24

In the ensuing scriptures, Apostle Paul began to talk about divorce. Perhaps when the Corinthians started to talk about the challenges of sex in marriage, they began to feel that the issue of marriage was a weight and as such they need to look for reasons to get away from it. Some came up with the excuse that because their wives or husbands were not believers, they should be given the permission to get away from the marriage.

Apostle Paul’s first instruction was a command from him supported by the command from the Lord Jesus Christ.

1. From Apostle Paul’s comments, is there any ground for divorce? Mal 2:14, 16, Mark 10:2-12,