

## Message #29

## I Corinthians 7:25-35

Paul was a man totally dedicated to God. He did not want anything or anyone to get in the way of his service to the God of the Bible. The relationship that he held dearest was his relationship to God, and, as a result, marriage was something that could possibly detract from that relationship so Paul chose to stay single.

**GOD'S IDEAL IS NOT ONE OF A CHANGED MARITAL STATUS, BUT ONE OF TOTAL DEDICATION AND DEVOTION TO HIM.**

Marriage or remarriage, at best, offer temporal benefits whereas a total, complete dedication to God offers eternal benefits.

**QUESTION #1 – Should a single believer seek to marry? 7:25-26**

Now the particular subject that Paul addresses here is the subject of whether or not a virgin, who is a believer, should marry. In other words, should a Christian who has never been married seek to get married?

When Paul says he has “no command of the Lord,” what he means is that the Lord never addressed this subject directly through His teachings or through His revelations to Paul. We know his written conclusions were, in fact, inspired because they wind up in God’s Word.

Now Paul’s point in **verse 26** is that it is good, if at all possible, to remain single. The reason was not because of spirituality, but because of “present distress” (**7:26**). That word distress is a word that refers to pain or distress that stems from some force or violence (G. Abbott-Smith, *Greek Lexicon*, p. 28).

Christianity was not popular in Paul’s day. In fact, in his second letter to the Corinthians he personally listed some of the things he had gone through as a believer—he had been imprisoned and beaten, he had been stoned, shipwrecked and robbed, he had been hungry, thirsty and cold (2 Cor. 11: 23-28).

It is one thing to severely suffer yourself as a believer; it is quite another to have to watch a mate or child you love suffer like this.

**QUESTION #2 – Should a married believer seek a divorce? 7:27a**

The term “bound” refers to the believer who is presently married and the term “released” refers to divorce. Paul’s point is if you are a believer and are presently in a marriage relationship do not seek to get out of it. The verb “seek” is a present imperative, meaning the believer has been commanded by God not to continually seek after or search after a divorce.

Should a believer seek a divorce? The answer is no!

**QUESTION #3** – Should a divorced believer seek to remarry? **7:27b**

If a Christian is divorced, should he seek to be married? Paul's answer is that the ideal is no.

However, **verse 28** makes it very clear that if a divorced person does remarry or if a single person does marry, there has been no sin committed.

We can make an assumption that remarriage after divorce is not sin if the divorce occurred prior to salvation or if the divorce occurred because of the fact that one mate was physically involved with someone other than his or her mate, or because of a desertion.

**Reason #1** - Because of life's troubles. **7:28b**

That word "trouble" refers to pressure and affliction.

Combined with the fact that many "distresses" (**7:26**) can come to the believer, one can certainly see that marriage can be pressured at times.

**Reason #2** - Because of limited time. **7:29-31**

Paul believed that we should ALWAYS be caught up with the eternal and NOT the temporal.

- 1) Earthly marriages are temporal. **7:29b**
- 2) Emotional tragedies are temporal. **7:30a**
- 3) Emotional triumphs are temporal. **7:30b**
- 4) Earthly possessions are temporal. **7:30c**
- 5) This world is temporal. **7:31**

This world's goals, its objectives and its rewards are all temporal and in due time this world and everything in it will be gone. Time is running out. We know the time has been shortened by nearly 2000 years since Paul wrote this letter.

**Reason #3** - Because of complete dedication. **7:32-35**

An unmarried person has absolutely NO distractions in his love and service for God.

**(Thought #1)** - A single man can devote his total life to pleasing the Lord. **7:32b**

A single person can devote all time, energy, talents and resources to one objective, "how he may please the Lord."

**(Thought #2)** - A married man CANNOT devote his total life to pleasing God. **7:33**

A married man must care for his wife. He must be concerned about her needs.

**(Thought #3)** - A single woman CAN devote her total life to pleasing God. **7:34a**

The single woman can devote all of her time, her energy, her money and talents to pleasing God. She can totally devote herself to the holy things of the Lord and can and will be used mightily by God.

**(Thought #4)** - A married woman CANNOT devote her total life to pleasing God. **7:34b**

Once a woman is married, her primary responsibility is to please her husband.

Marriage or remarriage IS NOT a question of sin against God; it is a question of service for God. The thing that is most profitable for ANY person is a life that is lived in total “undistracted devotion to the Lord.”

Paul was not interested in putting some legalistic “restraint” on people; he wanted them to totally “devote” themselves to God.

Will you do that today? Will you devote your life, your mate, your boyfriend or girlfriend to God? Will you purpose to put Him first? Jesus Christ wants our total allegiance (Luke 14:26); does He have it?