

1 Corinthians 7:17-24

We've just come out of a section in the (C7) in which Paul specifically taught Corinthians Christians (who were in mixed marriages) to be content to stay in their marriages, and to NOT leave their unsaved husbands or wives, because they were unsaved.

WHY? Because, as Paul wrote to the saved husband or wife; God has called you and saved you from your sins and from this present world TO STAY right where you are; to be a godly and sanctifying influence and witness for Christ to your unsaved husband or wife; AND, ALSO, to your children.

1 Corinthians 7:16

Paul theme in (V17-24) is understood in (V17, V20, V24)

ABIDE/STAY child of God where God has called you. THAT doesn't mean that God won't change your circumstances; (BUT let God change them), don't jump ship where God has called you to STAY! BE CONTENT!

Remember that godliness with contentment is great gain

(V17): But as God hath distributed (or assigned) to every man, as the Lord hath called everyone, so let him walk. And so, ordain I in all churches

I think the context goes right along with what we just learned from Paul in the previous section; but I also think that this teaches us something broader than just our marriage situation. Paul is teaching the Corinthians, and he is teaching US about godliness with contentment as Christians and Believers in our present circumstances.

Yes, in your marriage and your family/children, but also in what God has assigned to you in your earthly calling, your job, in your neighborhood, where you live, who your neighbors are, etc.

Philippians 4:10-13, Hebrews 13:5-6

Haven't we all had those thoughts, looking back, saying to ourselves; if I would have just did this or that differently, I wouldn't be in my current circumstances, current job, current situation! THINGS would be better!

No beloved! These are YOUR circumstances (YOUR LIFE) which God has assigned TO YOU, so walk by faith in God in it; SHINE for Christ, right where you are!

(V18-20): Now, remember that there were Jews and Gentiles in the church @ Corinth.

Paul uses the example of both Jews and Gentiles who were seeking to change things about themselves that didn't need to be changed under the New Covenant.

It no longer mattered if any man was a Jew and uncircumcised; and it didn't matter if any man was a Gentile was uncircumcised. Circumcision and Uncircumcision meant nothing in Christ. None of that mattered!

Galatians 3:26-29, 5:6, 6:15, Colossians 3:8-11

Bottom line, to both Jew and Gentiles, you are NOW one in Christ, you don't have to change anything about yourself, but to both of you, JUST keep the commandments of God! Walk by faith and obedience to God! That what mattered!
And AGAIN, God is going to use you RIGHT WHERE YOU ARE, so BE CONTENT, and live your Christian life in what and where God has assigned to you!

(V21-23): Are you a servant?

Don't be concerned about being a servant! If you're in Christ, you are the Lord's FREE-MAN; if you're FREE, you're Christ's SERVANT!

To be in either case is PERFECT for the child of God! John 8:31-36

BUT what you don't want to be AGAIN is a SERVANT/SLAVE TO SIN!
Romans 6:16-23

(V23): Ye are bought with a price; be not servants of men

Though you serve under men in this life, remember that you ultimately serve Christ! And therefore, don't regard yourselves to be servants or slaves of men, but servants of Christ!

Remember, you MIGHT be a servant to a man, but in Christ, you are the Lord's FREE-MAN. For to be freed from your sins is the ultimate definition of freedom!

Ephesians 6:5-8, Colossians 3:22-24,

(V24): Paul simply reiterates what he already said in V17, V20, and now here.