

**This is a strange portion of Paul's letter to the Corinthians Christians, because, in it, Paul is dissuading virgins/single Christians from marriage:**

What are we to think about Paul's words of caution? Why was he giving to them this counsel? Don't the scriptures teach us that he that findeth a wife, findeth a good thing? The scriptures do teach that!

So, why is Paul counseling the Corinthians this way in regard to marriage? There are (4) verses within the text that, I think, provide us with Paul's reasons:

1<sup>st</sup>, (V26) because of the present distress that existed in the world at that time;  
2<sup>nd</sup>, (V29), the time (life) is short; 3<sup>rd</sup>, the world is passing away, and 4<sup>th</sup>, and  
most importantly; (V35), that ye may attend upon the Lord without  
distraction.

Every Word of God written by Paul to the saints at Corinth was meant to keep their hearts and minds fixed upon Christ, (on things above, not on things in this world). That is his heart; remember that as you read this text.

**As we begin in (V25), Paul returns to the subject of marriage:**

In this case, he begins by advising or counseling virgins; men or women who are single and have not married. Now remember, back in (V1), Paul said, "Now concerning the things whereof ye wrote unto me", so Paul is continuing (here) to answer their questions.

Concerning virgins, Paul tells them that he had been given no commandment or special direction from the Lord on this subject, "yet, I give my judgment" or my counsel and advice as one that hath obtained mercy of the Lord to be faithful. Faithful here means trustworthy!

(V26): "I suppose therefore that this is good for the present distress I say, that it is good for a man so to be" or, to remain as he is (unmarried). (7:8)

It is better for you (because of the present distress in the world); that coupled with the difficulties that accompany marriage, it is better to remain (or to continue) as you are, single.

What was the present distress? Distress, persecutions against Christians, times of trouble in the world and against the church of Christ, which would only make marriage even more difficult. This letter was written around 55 AD, so just another 15 years would be the destruction of Jerusalem.

Luke 21:23, 2 Corinthians 6:4, 12:10

We will see in a moment that Paul was NOT forbidding virgins or singles to marry; what he was saying is...to marry is this time will be distressing and difficult.

That being said, (V27), if you are married in these present distressing times, don't seek to be loosed from your wife, and if you're not married, don't seek a wife.

(V28): "(But) and if thou marry, thou hast not sinned; and if a virgin marry, she hath not sinned. Nevertheless, such shall have trouble in the flesh; (troubles and cares that you didn't have before you were married): but I spare you"

Paul is not telling them that it was a sin to marry, but if you marry in these distressing times, be prepared, you will have troubles and cares that you didn't have being single.

**Paul's chief concern was for their love to Christ and for the spiritual state of their souls. This ought to be our concern even in our day, in these present and troubling times!**

Marriage is one of the most significant, if not THE MOST significant decision that we will ever make. And, how often does marriage significantly change the walk of a child of God, and not for their good? Now, it shouldn't, if you marry in the Lord!

That being said, NOW more time is required from both the husband and wife in caring for each other and looking after each other, not to mention children.

Paul knew the single brother or sister, following the Lord and caring for the things of the Lord, once married, would now care for the things of their husband/wife. This is NOT wrong, BUT, NOW there is a danger of our devotion to Christ being put on the back burner!

This care between a husband/wife (to please each other) is not sinful, yet, in marriage, there will be other cares, troubles, and distresses. When one does marry, (even in the Lord), the chief priority for both the husband and wife must NOT be to please each other, but to please the Lord!

*Paul was concerned that they would leave off their devotion to Christ once married. This applies to every one of us as married persons.*

**(V29-31): "But this I say brethren, the Time is short"**

You are only in this world for a short time: *James 4:14, Psalm 39:4*

Just as the world is passing away, so every marriage will end. Paul's focus here for the Church at Corinth is; don't get so attached to this world that you become distracted and disconnected from your devotion to Christ....EVEN in your marriage!

Remember that you are strangers and pilgrims in this world. The world and this life is temporary, transitory, and passing away. Marriage is one of those relationships that can distract you from your devotion to Christ!

*Husband/Wife, your love to Christ MUST surpass your love for each other!*

*And then, we may be weeping now (in this world) and in our present distress, but we must remember that weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning.*

And then, we must live in this world as though we are always getting ready to move out of it; don't get attached to worldly THINGS. Set your affection on heavenly and eternal things! Use this world for its utility value, for your earthly needs, but don't abuse it, and don't or overuse it.

**(V32-34): "But I would have you without carefulness" or without anxious care:**

Contrasts of the unmarried/married.

**(V35): "And this I speak for your own profit; not that I may cast a snare upon you, but for that which is comely, and that ye may attend upon the Lord without distraction"**

Paul: It is not my design to TIE YOU DOWN to being single, if God has called you to enter into marriage. But in all of what I am teaching you in regard to remaining single and/or entering into marriage, but wholehearted desire for you, in whatever situation that you are in, is that you would attend upon the Lord without distraction.

*My desire, saith Paul, is that you would NOT be distracted from your love and devotion to Christ.*

**EVERY earthly relationship is in this life is temporary and passing away.**

I think that is Paul's overarching message in this entire passage is, that they may attend upon the Lord without distraction, and that nothing would take them away from their love and devotion to Christ.