

Introduction: In the passage before us this evening Paul continues to answer some tough questions that were presented to him in a letter from Corinth. We do not have the exact questions that were asked by the Corinthian Church but with a little sanctified imagination I believe that we can recreate the questions with some degree of accuracy. Each question addresses a particular segment of believers within the fellowship at Corinth. In his answers Paul will seek to set forth some general principles concerning marriage, which are desperately needed in the days in which we live. Throughout the entire chapter it is important to remember that Paul is writing in the context of the situation in Corinth and that he is not attempting to set forth the doctrine of marriage in all of its wonderful fullness - he will do that in his letters to the Ephesian and Colossian believers.

SINGLE CHRISTIANS ADDRESSED

I. THE PRINCIPLE OF PURITY - 1 Corinthians 7:8-9

THEIR ASSUMED QUESTION:

***NOW THAT I AM SAVED AND I WANT TO SERVE THE LORD COMPLETELY,
SHOULD I GET MARRIED?***

PAUL'S TWO-PART ANSWER:

PART ONE - “IT IS GOOD FOR THEM TO REMAIN EVEN AS I AM” v. 8B

In Paul's personal opinion and in light of all that was coming upon the church, “the present distress”, it would be advantageous at this point not to get married.

PART TWO - “BUT IF THEY CANNOT EXERCISE SELF CONTROL, LET THEM MARRY. FOR IT IS BETTER TO MARRY THAN TO BURN WITH PASSION.” v. 9

Paul is saying that if you cannot exercise sexual self control then by all means get married.

CHRISTIAN COUPLES ADDRESSED

II. THE PRINCIPLE OF PERMANENCY - 1 Corinthians 7:10-11

THEIR ASSUMED QUESTION:

IF CELEBACY IS A HIGHER STATE SHOULD I THEN DISSOLVE MY MARRIAGE?

PAUL'S TWO-PART ANSWER:

**PART ONE - The Christian wife and husband must not dissolve their marriage
Marriage = a permanent relationship**

PART TWO - If one of the partners has already separated themselves from their spouse they must remain single or else be reconciled to their spouse.

MIXED COUPLES ADDRESSED

III. THE PRINCIPLE OF _____ - 1 Corinthians 7:12-16

THEIR ASSUMED QUESTION:

NOW THAT I AM A CHRISTIAN _____ ?

PAUL'S TWO-PART ANSWER:

PART ONE

PART TWO

ALL CHRISTIANS ADDRESSED

CONCLUSION - THE PRINCIPLE OF _____ - 1 Corinthians 7:17-24