

Chapter 7 is a very serious and important chapter dealing with marriage. Pray and ask God to give you an open mind and heart to see truth and an understanding of His heart of protection for us.

The Corinthian believers had written Paul a letter asking some questions. Now he will spend the time answering their questions.

- 1. Let's review for a minute what we know about this city of Corinth. What kind of things were going on in this city that could have led to questions about whether or not it is right to marry?**

- 2. Can we relate to this type of lifestyle all around them? What is the expression today? _____ sells**

- 3. Everywhere we look we are bombarded with someone using the appeal of our sexual desires to entice us to do something or buy something. Think of two things you have seen advertised using this technique that really had nothing to do with it.**

- 4. Why would Paul tell them yes it is okay to marry if he really believes it is good for a man not to marry? Vs.2 What are the benefits and hinderances?**

- 5. Marriage is one of the many good gifts that God has given us. Read Genesis 2:24 write out God's original plan and purpose for this union.**

Now go back and read 1 Cor. 6:17. Are you beginning to understand Paul's answer to their question a bit better?

- 6. Since the scripture is quite clear at this point I will ask the question, what about polygamy? Read verse 2 very carefully. Is it okay for a Christ follower to share their mate?**

Single people face a tremendous temptation in this area that married couples can enjoy freely. There are physical, emotional and spiritual benefits to this type of closeness.

- 7. Would celibacy make you a more mature Christian?**

- 8. What benefits could there be in singleness?**

- 9. As you read verse 3-5 list the truths taught here.**

- 10. When Paul said he wished all believers were “as I am” what was he referring to? Why would he wish that? (remember the context of the chapter)**

- 11. Do you know anyone who is single and focused on pleasing God?**

- 12. Paul goes on to encourage those who have not married yet or have lost their mates in death to remain single. Singleness and marriage are both gifts from God. How could they be beneficial to our walk of faith?**

- 13. Self-control is a huge part of this issue. Gal.5:22-23 lists “self-control” as one of the fruits of the Spirit. The gauges in our car give us some insights into the condition of our car. The fruits of the Spirit can do this for our spiritual walk. When you look at this list do you see them in ever increasing measure in spiritual life? There is only one who truly lived this way all the time. The question is are you seeing a heart more controlled by love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control this year than last year?**

- 14. What is the reason Paul gives for going ahead and marrying?**

Please believe me when I say if you are divorced my heart aches for you. I have seen others who have walked through this trial and it is never easy, it is never without pain. When two people marry they picture “happily ever after”; no one stands at the altar picturing their divorce. God sees your pain and he will meet you there.

He is **El Roi**,

the God who sees. Gen. 16;13

15. In verses 10-11 Paul is speaking to those who are married and might possibly be contemplating divorce. What does he say to them? How does this reveal again God’s plan of one man and one woman for life?

As for those who are married to someone who is not a believer, this can be a difficult situation. Often you may be at odds as to what is the right thing to do, or choices to make. It can grow tiring trying to live an obedient, God pleasing life and have your mate disagree. It might even seem like a good idea to divorce a mate who is not a believer and either live dedicated to God or marry a believer so you could serve God together.

16. What instructions do we see in God’s word? Vss. 12-14

Paul bases his words here on his knowledge of the scriptures and Jesus teachings on the permanence of marriage. Mark 10:1–9

17. What are you to do if your marriage partner leaves you? They insist on a divorce. Vs. 15

God may use many other things to bring this person to Christ. Hebrews 12:14 Make every effort to live in peace with all men and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the LORD.

18. What is Paul telling each of us?

19. What is the repeated teaching in verse 20 and 24?

20. What is the reason stated in verse 17?

21. What are the examples he uses in these verses?

Paul goes back to addressing those who are single. He refers to them as virgins or in some translations betrothed. The word in the Greek is “parthenos” it refers to men and women who have remained pure; who have never had sexual relations with anyone.

22. What does he instruct them to do?

23. What do you suppose Paul is referring to when he says “in view of the present distress”?

24. What kind of distress were the believers living under? What was in their near future?

25. How would being single ease distress?

Paul has an eternal focus. He lives to share the gospel and to make an eternal difference in the lives of those he comes in contact with each day.

26. In verses 32-35, Paul encourages them to make what their focus?

27. Again in verse 36-38 how does Paul reassure them?

28. In the last two verses of this chapter we see Paul speaking to widows. Vss. 39-40 What is the only biblical reason to be free to remarry? Who are they free to marry?