

teach. This writer tried to use Scripture, and understanding, knowing that this is a real problem today in our society and that many people have been hurt and bruised. My purpose is to try and save marriages, and not to hurt those who have already experienced divorce.

***But and if she*** (he) ***depart, let her remain unmarried, or be reconciled to her husband*** (his wife) (I Corinthians 7:11). This means to get a divorce, else Paul would not have restricted her to remain single, not remarrying unless it was to her former husband. Some departed with mutual consent. All divorces were considered the complete dissolving of the marriage bond; and, in consequence of this, they were free to remarry. Any woman or man who got a divorce on grounds other than those allowed was to remain single or remarry the former companion. Divorce on scriptural grounds meant that a person was free to remarry, providing it was to another Christian (v. 15,27-28; Mt. 5:32; 19:6; The innocent was not to be held responsible for the sins of the guilty (Ezek. 18:2-4, 13, 17-32). Dake.

#### In The New Testament:

1. Marriage is binding as long as life (Mark 10:2-9; Romans 7:2,3)

2. Divorce allowed because of adultery and the unbeliever departing (Matthew 5:27-32; Mark 10:11,12; I Corinthians 7:15)

(An interesting cf. - Mark 10:29,30).

## SEVENTH STUDY

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### MARRIAGE AND IT'S DUTIES

#### MARRIAGE AND CELIBACY (I Corinthians 7:1,2)

It seems the Corinthian Church had written Paul with questions concerning marriage relations.

His instructions must be read in light of v. 26, "This is good for the present distress." A time of great distress and persecution was coming for the early Christians, and in this situation the marriage relationship would be difficult. Note that "not to touch a woman (here) means not to marry." <sup>1</sup>

Fornication in the city of Corinth was a common practice. Paul does not, though, present marriage as an escape from those passions, and leave out the romantic part of marriage. He only suggests that marriage could help one avoid the temptation in the matter of sex.

1. What does Paul suggest to men and women to do to avoid fornication? (I Corinthians 7:2) \_\_\_\_\_

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#### THE OBLIGATION OF RECIPROCITY (I Corinthians 7:3-5)

***The husband render unto his wife . . . also the wife to the husband*** (I Corinthians 7:3).

The commitment of marriage means that each partner relinquishes the exclusive right to his or her

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1. Full Life Study Bible, p.363.

own body and gives the other claim to it. That is, neither marriage partner may fail to submit to the normal sexual desires of the other. Such desires within marriage are normal and God-given, and to refuse to carry out one's responsibility in fulfilling the other's needs is to open up the marriage to Satan's temptation of adultery (v. 5). <sup>2</sup>

TEMPORARY ABSTINENCE (I Corinthians 7:5-6)

1. What is the exception Paul gives for married couples abstaining from intercourse? (I Corinthians 7:5) \_\_\_\_\_

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For references on sexual abstinence see Joel 2:16; Zechariah 7:3; Exodus 19:15.

*I speak this by permission* (I Corinthians 7:6).

There were no commandments on these periods of abstinence; Paul was only giving his own counsel by permission.

PAUL'S MARITAL STATUS (I Corinthians 7:7-9)

1. What is Paul's advice to the unmarried and widows? (I Corinthians 7:7,8) \_\_\_\_\_

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Paul's desire of serving Christ, uninterrupted, was to stay single. This made for him a simpler life; but he was wise enough to know that all did not have this same gift of celibacy (I Corinthians 7:8,9).

*It is better to marry than to burn* (I Corinthians 7:9). To burn - be a flame- have difficulty managing

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2. Full Life Study Bible, p. 363.

desires and emotions.

The difficulties of marriage are preferable by far to a sexually tortured life as a single. <sup>1</sup>

REGULATIONS AND ADVICE TO MARRIEDS  
(I Corinthians 7:10-16)

*And unto the married* (I Corinthians 7:10).

The Apostle gives direction in a case which must have been frequent in that age of the world, whether they were to live with heathen relatives in a married state. Moses' law permitted divorce. This might move a scruple in many minds.

Marriage by Christ's command, is for life. *The wife must not depart from the husband* (v. 10), nor the *husband put away his wife*, v. 11. The Lord Himself had forbidden such separations, Matt. 5:32. They must not separate for any other cause than what Christ allows. Husbands and wives should not quarrel at all, or should be quickly reconciled. They are bound to each other for life. They can not throw off the burden, and therefore should set their shoulders to it, and endeavor to make it as light to each other as they can. <sup>2</sup>

*God hateth putting away*. God hates putting away (divorce) because Israel, Jehovah's wife, put Him away, and made Him no longer their God (Malachi 2:13-16; Jeremiah 3:6-11).

- Note: This is a difficult subject on which to

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1. The Message, p. 347.

2. The Matthew Henry Commentary, p. 1813.