

When a man or woman is married, if both partners are in agreement that God and His work goes first, there usually is no real problem serving God and family responsibilities. But if there is no such agreement, it is harder for the married partners not to be distracted with family responsibilities, problems and concerns. God did put His blessings on marriage or none of us would be here to serve Him. Paul was just trying to say that an unmarried person can devote all their gifts and themselves totally to the Lord and be free from such cares.

3. Who does Paul say *doeth well* in I Corinthians 7:37? \_\_\_\_\_

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4. In what state does Paul say a widow would be happier if she or he continues there? (I Corinthians 7:40) \_\_\_\_\_

3. Reconciliation encouraged (I Corinthians 7:10-17)

4. Marriage of the divorced constitutes adultery (Luke 16:18)

- Note: Divorce is not the 'unpardonable sin'.

5. Jesus forgives and even protects a woman caught in adultery (John 8:1-11)

Divorce tears families. It pulls them apart. It divides people; people's finances; and possessions. It pulls away part of the person. Children are affected, possibly more than anybody, because they are bruised in their tender age, and that bruise stays with them for life. It can affect their future relationships: because of the hurt, anger, and rejection they feel in their own emotions. Many times they feel responsible and mistakenly blame themselves.

Creflo Dollar shared the following experience:

It seems a lady in his Church was being beaten by her husband, repeatedly. She would come to Church with black eyes and noticeable bruises on her face and body. There was no place in her mind for separation or divorce. She was a godly woman. Then, after a period of time, the husband beat her to death. After Pastor Dollar preached her funeral, he made up his mind he would not advise against divorce in the case of physical abuse against wives, husbands, or children again.

2. What would you have done had you been in Pastor Dollar's situation? \_\_\_\_\_

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#### ABIDING IN GOD'S CALL (I Corinthians 7:17-24)

1. When a person becomes born again and is in an honorable state or position in life, should he remain? or should he seek to change that position? (I Corinthians 7:18-22,24) \_\_\_\_\_

I Corinthians 7:22 - *For he that is called in the Lord, being a servant, is the Lord's freeman: likewise also, he that is called, being free, is Christ's servant* (Ref. John 8:36).

***The keeping of the commandments of God*** (I Corinthians 7:19). How can Paul, who emphasized so strongly salvation by faith (Rom. 3-4), say that what really matters is the "keeping of the commandments of God"? Because salvation by faith must lead to obeying, loving, and serving God. Anything less than such obedience falls short of N.T. saving faith (cf. Gal. 5:6; 6:15). <sup>1</sup>

***Therein abide with God*** (I Corinthians 7:24). Paul is saying, literally, to do service unto the Lord by remaining by the side of God, as in the Lord's

sight. Be servants to Christ, not the *servants of men* (I Corinthians 7:22,23).

#### CONCERNING VIRGINS (I Corinthians 7:25-40)

This is a subject that Christ had never dealt with, so Paul gives his judgment on this issue (I Corinthians 7:25). In verse 26, he continues to say . . . *I suppose . . . for the present distress*. Because of the trying conditions, at present, that surrounded the Christian life, and the coming trials, it would be easier for a man to face the persecution as a single.

1. (a) Is Paul saying it would be wrong for the virgin to marry at this time? \_\_\_\_\_
- (b) Does Paul advise the married to separate under the pressing conditions? (I Corinthians 7:27) \_\_\_\_\_

#### ***They that use this world*** (I Corinthians 7:31).

We live in a period when all things of the world are hastening toward an end. For this reason life in this world should not be our utmost concern; we should direct our greatest attention toward our heavenly home (Heb. 11:13-16). <sup>1</sup>

2. From I Corinthians 7:34,35,38:
  - (a) Does Scripture maintain that the unmarried state is inferior to the married? Yes \_\_\_ or No \_\_\_
  - (b) Or is Paul saying that it would be easier to attend upon the Lord without distraction? \_\_\_\_\_

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1. Full Life Study Bible, p. 364.

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