

Messy

Part Nine: *guidelines for married*

July 3, 2022

The Corinthians lived in a society that tolerated premarital sex, adultery, polygamy, homosexuality, and divorce, so it is easy to understand why the Christians in the church at Corinth were confused about marriage. *After Paul gives Christian singles some guidelines for marriage in verses 1-9...*

- **In 7:10-40, Paul gives Christian married couples some guidelines for marriage.**

1st – Paul tells Christians married to Christians to stay married. Vs. 10-11

Jesus was often asked about divorce during His earthly ministry, and He consistently told His listeners that God intended for marriage to be a life-long relationship between a one man and one woman (Matthew 19:3-9).

2nd - Paul tells Christians married to non-Christians to stay married if their unbelieving spouse desires to stay in the marriage. Vs. 12-14

A Christian should never knowingly marry a non-Christian (1 Cor. 7:39; 2 Cor. 6:14), but some of the members of the Corinthian Church were saved after they had been married and their mates had not yet received Christ as their Lord and Savior. No doubt, some of these believers were having a difficult time in their mixed marriage.

Paul gives Christians two reasons they should stay married to an unbeliever:

Reason #1: A Christian husband or wife sanctifies a home. Vs. 14

Reason #2: A Christian husband or wife can lead their family to the Lord. Vs. 16

3rd – Paul tells Christians to let their unbelieving spouse go if they want out of the marriage. Vs. 15

If an unbelieving husband or wife cannot tolerate the spouse's devotion to Christ, and they insist on divorce, the Christian is to let them out of the marriage to preserve peace.

4th - In verses 17-38, Paul tells Christian Jews, slaves, and single men and women to remain as they were when God saved them.

5th - Paul tells Christian widows they can remarry, but only to someone who loves the Lord. Vs. 39

Paul concludes chapter seven by restating that marriage is supposed to be a lifelong relationship. He tells Christian widows that they are free to get remarried, but they must only marry someone who loves the Lord!

Some take aways from 1 Corinthians Chapter Seven:

- God hates divorce!
- God wants Christians to do everything they can to stay in their marriage.
- God permits Christians to get remarried in three situations: if their spouse dies (Romans 7:2), if their spouse commits adultery (Matthew 19:9), or if their unbelieving spouse wants out of their marriage (1 Cor. 7:15).

Here's the lesson for today...

Christians need to work at solving the problems in their marriage so they can stay married.