

DIFFICULTIES (7-16)

1. Marriage (7:1-40)

A. Statement of principle: Good for a person not to _____ (7:1)

Do we not have a right to take along a believing wife, even as the rest of the apostles and the brothers of the Lord and Cephas? (1 Cor 9:5)

When Jesus came into Peter's home, He saw his mother-in-law lying sick in bed with a fever. (Matt 8:14)

He brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, "You are Simon the son of John; you shall be called Cephas" (which is translated Peter). (John 1:42)

B. Conduct in marriage (7:2-5)

1) Marry if you can't avoid _____ (7:2)

2) Spouses shouldn't _____ each other sexually (7:3-5a)

a) Sexuality is good, created by God.

God saw all that He had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day. (Gen 1:31)

b) In marriage, a person has an obligation to satisfy their partner sexually

c) Exception: for a time of prayer

d) Concession (7:6)

3) Application

4) Paul's "wish" (7:7a)

For I could wish that I myself were accursed, separated from Christ for the sake of my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh, (Rom 9:3)

Brethren, my heart's desire and my prayer to God for them is for their salvation. (Rom 10:1)

C. Teaching for every marital status (7:7-40)

Marriage is a _____, singleness is a _____ (7:7b-9)

1) To singles (7:8-9)

2) To married believers (7:10-11)

a) Plan A:

b) Plan B:

3) To believers married to unbelievers (7:12-16)

- 4) General principles of relationships (7:17-24)
- a) Paul's teaching not just for Corinth, but all churches (17b)
 - b) Salvation should not affect your marital salvation

c) We were bought with a price! (23)

- 5) To the unmarried (7:25-38)

a) Inspiration.

... regard the patience of our Lord as salvation; just as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given him, wrote to you, as also in all his letters, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which the untaught and unstable distort, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures, to their own destruction. (2 Peter 3:15)

b) "Virgin"

These are the ones who have not been defiled with women, for they have kept themselves chaste. These are the ones who follow the Lamb wherever He goes. These have been purchased from among men as first fruits to God and to the Lamb. (Rev 14:4)

c) Singleness is better – always?

d) In light of present times, don't focus on your marital state. (7:29-31)

e) Paul's reason for this teaching (7:32-35)

f) Verse 36-38 is difficult/misunderstood

6) To widows or widowers (7:39-40)

D. APPLICATION