

I CORINTHIANS
Chapter 7:25-40

VERSE 25:

In **verse 25** Paul says - "**yet I give my judgment.**" He simply is telling us that the Lord had given him no commandment to say that a virgin must marry or not, but by inspiration of God, he gives his judgment in the matter. He was a wise pastor who recognized the conditions prevailing at that time, and said - "**I suppose, therefore, that this is good for the present distress**". He then gives two reasons why he is qualified to give such advice. First, he had - "**obtained mercy**", and secondly, he had been - "**faithful**".

VERSE 26:

"I suppose therefore that this is good for the present distress, I say, that it is good for a man so to be." The word - "**distress**" speaks of something that causes "great stress or calamity."

The days in which this letter was written were days of great persecution, of fearful suffering, when one might have to flee at a moment's notice and leave home and loved ones for Christ's sake. And so Paul is saying, "For the present distress I should say this is the best thing".

VERSE 27:

He wants them to know that he is not saying marriage is wrong. If a person is "**bound**" (married) they should not try to get out of the marriage. But if a person is single, the sufferings of that day should be one factor to consider before marrying. But he wants to be clear that it is not a sin to marry.

Do not be anxious to marry. Is it not better to be single or lonely than to be married to the wrong man or wrong woman. I personally have known where loneliness overrode the leadership of God that ended in such unhappiness. An old proverb says, "Marry in haste, repent at leisure."

Often a widower, left desolate by the death of his wife, feels he must have comfort and companionship such as he had before. So he marries hastily and finds the marriage is not blessed and that he was taken in by a woman seeking security or perhaps his money. Feeling that her opportunity is slipping away a young woman may hasten to take an offer of marriage because it seems the only one she will have, but then it does not turn out a happy marriage and is a very poor life.

One who is single should wait for the clear approval of God before marriage. Those who set out to seek marriage over anxiously are likely to have great sorrow.

VERSE 28:

"But and if thou marry" - While it seemed practical not to marry with the coming persecution it was not wrong to do so. Nevertheless, those who did marry would - "**have trouble in the flesh**" due to anxiety and distress on account of their marital ties.

Marriage is not wrong. God prepared a wife for Adam and commanded him - **"Multiply and replenish the earth" - Genesis 1:28**. Again, after the flood, God said to Noah - **"Multiply and replenish the earth", Genesis 9:1**. In **Hebrews 13:4** we are told, **"Marriage is honorable in all, and the bed undefiled."** It is also taught that it is accepted for pastors to marry. Notice the instructions given in - **I Timothy 3:2, "the husband of one wife."** So marriage is not wrong. The Roman Catholic Church's plan to forbid priests to marry was not from God. It is true that some should not marry, but many should and marriage is properly called among Christians, "holy matrimony."

VERSE 29-31:

These verses remind us that time is short, and to be or not to be married isn't a major matter compared to eternal blessedness. One who weeps for loneliness or rejoices in companionship - **V:30**, will soon find that the weeping or the rejoicing over earthly loneliness or fellowship is past, and those who own much or little will find it does not matter in the next world.

A person cannot get through life without buying. It is impossible to live in this world without something for physical comfort. But, do not set your heart upon such possessions, nor let your affections be entangled about earthly things. As you go through this world it is perfectly right and proper to enjoy many privileges: He richly gives us all things to enjoy; **"And they that use this world, as not abusing it."** In other words, do not let the spirit of the world get a hold of you.

While enjoying the good things that God graces lavishes upon you, do not set your heart upon them for they are all fleeting and will be gone some day. If your treasures are all here, and if your heart is set upon them, then when everything has disappeared what will you have left? If you have Christ, you will have what satisfies the soul when everything else is gone.

VERSE 32-38:

The heart of **verses 29-35** is a life dedicated to Christ and a service given to Him unhindered and without distraction.

There are obligations and dangers in marriage relationships. Paul was inspired to say - **"But I would have you without carefulness," V: 32**. There are obligations and burdens with a family. In the case of Paul, marriage would have been a hindrance with one so completely dedicated to getting out the gospel. He had little financial support, he was not settled with a home, and he had no time for the obligations of a wife and family. At any rate, one must take it into consideration that there are burdens and responsibilities in marriage, and these may limit one's service for God. A man may be tempted to please his wife instead of pleasing God. The wife may be tempted to please her husband and not seek first the kingdom of God.

Paul's concern was that nothing would stand in the way of one's service to the Lord, or one's usefulness. In all of this, Paul's and our concern ought to be - **"that ye may attend upon the Lord without distraction," - V: 35**.

Again, he must remind us in - **verses 36-38** that marriage is permissible. It is not wrong, and it is often a part of the best way of happiness and usefulness. It is not a sin to marry or to remain single, provided your heart can be happy and totally given to the Lord.

However, we have been warned solemnly, in - **verse 2, "Nevertheless, to avoid fornication, let every man have his own wife, and let every woman have her own husband," verse 9 - "It is better to marry than to burn."**

VERSE 39-40:

Marriage is a binding relationship. It is a relationship "till death do us part." When one considers marriage they need to ask themselves if this is the person they want to spend the rest of their life with. That is God's plan for marriage.

To the widows, Paul gives four absolute principles followed by one statement of personal advice:

First, wives are **"bound"** to their husbands for life - **7:27**.

Second, death severs the marriage bound - **Romans 7:2-3**.

Third, widows are then free to remarry - **I Timothy 5:11, 14**. They have a liberty of choice for their next husband.

Fourth, Christian widows who choose to remarry must marry a believer - **"only in the Lord", II Corinthians 6:14**. An old Puritan writer said, "If you are a child of God and you marry a child of the devil, you will be sure to have trouble with your father-in-law."

Again, Paul's counsel to them must be viewed from the standpoint of the Christian distress - **7:26, 28, 29**. In his - **"judgment"** - **7:25**, based upon personal experience and Spirit-guided consideration, he thought that they would be happier if they would remain unmarried.

I CORINTHIANS 7:25-40
Study Guide

1. In **verse 25**, Paul gives two reasons why he qualified to give such advice. He had _____ and he had been _____.
2. The day in which this letter was written were days of great _____
3. The word "bound" means _____.
4. Marry in _____, _____ in leisure.
5. One who is single should wait for the clear _____ of _____ before _____.
6. Marriage is not _____.
7. A person cannot get through life without buying. But, do not set your _____ upon such _____, nor let your _____ be entangled about _____ things.
8. Paul's concern was that _____ would stand in the way of one's service to the _____, or one's _____.
9. Marriage is a binding relationship. It is a relationship "_____"
10. Wives are **"bound"** to their husbands for _____ - **7:27**.
11. _____ severs the marriage bound - **Romans 7:2-3**.
12. Widows are then free to _____ - **I Timothy 5:11, 14**.
13. Christian widows who choose to remarry must marry a _____.