

Questions of Marriage

Lesson 6

I Corinthians 7:1-40

Introduction

As we discussed before, this epistle was not the first correspondence between Paul and the Corinthians. Not only had he written them before (5:9), but they had written him, apparently with a series of questions. Here Paul addresses issues regarding marriage, particularly questions about the value of marriage now that they had become Christians. It seems clear from the previous chapter that many were confused as to what needed to be changed in their lives. Paul explains that in many ways they were to remain as they were before, and he clarifies the role of marriage given the "present distress".

Corinthian Questions - 7:1-7

1. It is hard to tell from vs. 1 if this is Paul's statement or part of the Corinthians' question. From the full chapter be prepared to explain this statement.
2. Why is it good to be married? Is this the only reason?
3. What do you give up in a marriage?
4. Under what situations can the marriage partners "defraud" each other? Were they required or permitted to do this? Was this arrangement ever meant to be permanent?
5. Why should not all be like Paul?

Remain as You Are - 7:8-24

1. What charge did the Lord give to the married? Read Matthew 19:9.

2. Why were they to stay with an unbelieving mate? What was their responsibility if the mate left?
3. What other circumstances does Paul address in this section? What is his conclusion in each case?
4. How are Christians bondservants? How are they free?
5. How can we be bondservants of men (vs. 23)?

Questions Regarding Virginity - 7:25-40

1. Is Paul expressing a command or his opinion (vs. 25)?
2. What reason did Paul give for advising against marriage? What does he say to those who are already married?
3. How might a good marriage be affected by the present distress?
4. What options did Paul give the fathers of virgins?