

I Corinthians 7:17-24

We have learned:

1. Widows and widowers are allowed to ____ marry if they want to:

I Corinthians 7:8-9; 39 - I say therefore to the unmarried and widows, It is good for them if they abide even as I. I Cor. 7:9 - But if they cannot contain, let them marry: for it is better to marry than to burn. I Cor. 7:39 - The wife is bound by the law as long as her husband liveth; but if her husband be dead, she is at liberty to be married to whom she will; only in the Lord.

2. God allows separation with the hope of reconciliation:

I Corinthians 7:10-11 - And unto the married I command, *yet* not I, but the Lord, Let not the wife depart from *her* husband: I Cor. 7:11 - But and if she depart, let her remain unmarried, or be reconciled to *her* husband: and let not the husband put away *his* wife.

3. One can remarry if an unbelieving spouse leaves - ____ erts them.

a. *Verses 12-15 - If after one's best effort to make it work, the unbeliever does not want to be a part of the Christian life and leaves, then the believer is not [under bondage]. They are no longer obligated to the former contract and are now free to ____ marry.

b. [but God has called us to peace] The wars and battles are to come to an end.

4. One never knows if their mate will ____ er be saved or not.

I Corinthians 7:16 - For what knowest thou, O wife, whether thou shalt save *thy* husband? or how knowest thou, O man, whether thou shalt save *thy* wife?

*It is time to go on to fulfill the will of God for their remaining life which they could ____ do with an unbelieving spouse.

5. If loosed from a marriage, there is grace to ____ marry:

I Corinthians 7:27-28 - Art thou bound unto a wife? seek not to be loosed. Art thou loosed from a wife? seek not a wife. I Cor. 7:28 - But and if thou marry, thou hast not sinned; and if a virgin marry, she hath not sinned. Nevertheless such shall have trouble in the flesh: but I spare you.

6. If lost and divorced, then one gets saved (DBR - faith), that one is forgiven of _____. They are free to remarry (II Corinthians 5:17, I Corinthians 6:9-11, Romans 8:1). *There are no carryover sins!

Note: What do we do with Rahab the harlot in the Messianic line; David marrying Bathsheba and having Solomon; or the woman at the well who had _____ husbands?

7. We know the God standard for marriage is one spouse and done. We also know bad things happen, but God is gracious. Yes, we understand divorce has consequences (_____ful - Galatians 6:7-8), but we are grateful God is forgiving (Romans 5:20).

Question: Is it possible there is the perfect will of God and a _____missive will of God?

- A. I Corinthians 7:17 - But as God hath distributed to every man, as the Lord hath called every one, so let him walk. And so ordain I in all churches.

1. *Paul answers, probably from one of their questions, by giving them a principle to use:

- * | Believers should willingly accept the situation in which God has placed them to serve Him. At
- * | times, it is against our human nature and we want to rebel. But God promises us He will give us the _____ lity to handle whatever occupation, status, or position in life we are in.

2. God has called us to salvation:

Romans 8:30 - Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.

Romans 9:24 - Even us, whom he hath called, not of the Jews only, but also of the Gentiles?

Galatians 1:15 - But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb, and called me by his grace,

3. Preferably when called - saved, we are to walk in the same way, same occupation in which we were when called to salvation. It indicates God _____ arranged and charges believers to remain in their occupation. Usually this is the _____ mon people who are to witness to other common people, who are _____ ready to hear and receive the gospel.

Mark 12:37 - David therefore himself calleth him Lord; and whence is he *then* his son? And the common people heard him gladly.

I Corinthians 1:26-27 - For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called: I Cor. 1:27 - But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty;

*So whatever lot you have been dealt, go on and accomplish what God wants you to do _____ less He shows you differently.

B. I Corinthians 7:18 - Is any man called being circumcised? let him not become uncircumcised. Is any called in uncircumcision? let him not be circumcised.

1. All believers are equal in Christ. There is no advantage of being a Gentile or a Jew. They should _____ in the same calling, if possible, as when God saved them. Jewish believers in Christ should not try to become Gentiles by erasing the Covenant's physical mark. Likewise, the Gentiles should not try to become Jews by receiving the mark of God's Covenant (circumcision).

Galatians 5:6 - For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by love.

Galatians 6:15 - For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision, but a new creature.

2. Point? Just as one should not change the status of his circumcision to gain approval before God and man, he should not change his marital status for these reasons as well!

*Paul is telling us that the most basic principle in a believer's identity and fulfillment in life is _____ found by changing the conditions or circumstances under which they live. Who we are in Christ is not based upon our status of where we are, the conditions we live in, or the possessions we have. It is what _____ works in and through us for His glory.

Colossians 3:1-4 - If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Col. 3:2 - Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. Col. 3:3 - For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. Col. 3:4 - When Christ, *who is* our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.

C. I Corinthians 7:19 - Circumcision is nothing, and uncircumcision is nothing, but the keeping of the commandments of God.

1. The rite of circumcision has no spiritual significance in today's dispensation of Grace. There is no merit attached to being circumcised or not being circumcised.

*Some of God's gifts were permanent. But God also gave some specific commands for specific times and specific people that were of _____porary nature (sign gifts). This was true of circumcision to the Jewish people. It is no longer necessary in today's Body dispensation.

*A dispensation status is not to be sought.

Ephesians 2:11 - Wherefore remember, that ye *being* in time past Gentiles in the flesh, who are called Uncircumcision by that which is called the Circumcision in the flesh made by hands;

2. [the commandments] Paul's point is what really matters is for the believer to observe, keep the charges, precepts given to them as members of the Body of Christ. The thing that counts is to _____ God.

Philippians 4:9 - Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you.

II Timothy 2:2 - And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.

Note: These commandments are _____ the Mosaic Law. Christ had fulfilled the Law and believers today are not under it.

Romans 6:14 - For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.

Romans 10:4 - For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth.

D. I Corinthians 7:20 - Let every man abide in the same calling wherein he was called.

1. This shows that if one was called in the circumcision program, stay there (Little Flock); but if called by God to salvation in the non-circumcision program, stay there (Body-grace-mystery).

Galatians 2:7, 9 - But contrariwise, when they saw that the gospel of the uncircumcision was committed unto me, as *the gospel* of the circumcision *was* unto Peter; Gal. 2:9 - And when James, Cephas, and John, who seemed to be pillars, perceived the grace that was given unto me, they gave to me and Barnabas the right hands of fellowship; that we *should go* unto the heathen, and they unto the circumcision.

*I think 7:20 is a good verse to show the 12 are _____ in the Body of Christ.

2. Also, the calling is the position God has placed the believer in His Son.

I Corinthians 1:9 - God *is* faithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

II Thessalonians 2:14 - Whereunto he called you by our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 4:1 - I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called,

3. Staying within context, Paul repeats that the believer can fulfill God's calling and purpose for their life whether married, single, or _____ married.

E. I Corinthians 7:21 - Art thou called *being* a servant? care not for it: but if thou mayest be made free, use it rather.

1. Here Paul tells what a slave is supposed to do when saved. Remember, over half of the Roman Empire was composed of slaves. Many of the early believers had come out of slavery or were still in it when saved. To the secular world, slaves were _____ferior. When Paul writes to let them know that they were equal in Christ, he did not want conversion to Christianity to initiate a social _____olution nor economic irresponsibility.

E.R. Campbell: "*The reason for this was because of Rome's retribution on those families (brutal!) and the progress of the gospel would be hampered among the slaves (fear of becoming a believer). This is why Paul asks converts to maintain the status quo, with the right frame of mind, doing all things unto the _____."

2. Paul was very interested in a slave becoming free _____ they were to obtain their freedom in a peaceful, non-violent and non-deserting way (Philemon 10-18). Paul did not believe they should become a revolutionary or to begin demanding freedom from believing masters just because they are equal in Christ.

*| However, if they could secure their freedom (probably by paying a _____ce or by the desire of the
*| master) that would be fine.

Ephesians 6:5-6 - Servants, be obedient to them that are *your* masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in singleness of your heart, as unto Christ; Eph. 6:6 - Not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart;

I Timothy 6:1-2 - Let as many servants as are under the yoke count their own masters worthy of all honour, that the name of God and *his* doctrine be not blasphemed. I Tim. 6:2 - And they that have believing masters, let them not despise *them*, because they are brethren; but rather do *them* service, because they are faithful and beloved, partakers of the benefit. These things teach and exhort.

Titus 2:9-10 - *Exhort* servants to be obedient unto their own masters, *and* to please *them* well in all *things*; not answering again; Titus 2:10 - Not purloining, but shewing all good fidelity; that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things.

*Paul was against slavery:

I Timothy 1:9-10 - Knowing this, that the law is not made for a righteous man, but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and for sinners, for unholy and profane, for murderers of fathers and murderers of mothers, for manslayers, I Titus 1:10 - For whoremongers, for them that defile themselves with mankind, for menstealers, for liars, for perjured persons, and if there be any other thing that is contrary to sound doctrine;

F. 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.

1. Paul gives a paradox. What people are in this world is the complete _____osite of who they are in Christ. Here the slave who is converted to Christ has been set _____ from the bondage of sin, and is now free. Then, at salvation, the free man (non-slave, perhaps a master) becomes a spiritual _____ve in submission to Christ.

Romans 1:1 - Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called *to be* an apostle, separated unto the gospel of God,

2. This should have been a comfort to the slaves. Their status carried no dishonor, but instead slaves were equal in Christ and in _____rch!

Galatians 3:28 - There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.

Colossians 3:11 - Where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond nor free: but Christ is all, and in all.

*The ground is _____ el in Christ for every believer, both a free man and a slave.

G. I Corinthians 7:23 - Ye are bought with a price; be not ye the servants of men.

1. All believers, both slaves and masters, were purchased, acquired, and redeemed by God the Father through the _____ of His Son.

I Corinthians 6:19-20 - What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost *which is* in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? I Cor. 6:20 - For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

Revelation 5:9 - And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation;

2. All believers were _____ iously dead in sin, and all (slaves-masters) had God's love and mercy extended to them. All had a price of debt that was paid for by the blood of Christ (Ephesians 1:7).
3. [be ye not servants of men.] Paul tells believers not to be in spiritual bondage to men, but know who they are in Christ and live _____ ly. Do not be controlled in how you behave by your _____ cumstances.

Note Context: No one has the _____ ht to dictate (master) to the believer what his or her marital status should be. That is a _____ sonal matter between each believer and his Lord.

H. I Corinthians 7:24 - Brethren, let every man, wherein he is called, therein abide with God.

*Believers are to remain con _____ where God saved them. God will be there with them in their circumstances. They are to stay close - intimate with Him no matter what problems confront them. As a believer, the calling of God on our life is supernatural, and His working in our situations _____ is supernatural in order to help us.

II Timothy 4:16-18 - At my first answer no man stood with me, but all *men* forsook me: *I pray God* that it may not be laid to their charge. II Tim. 4:17 - Notwithstanding the Lord stood with me, and strengthened me; that by me the preaching might be fully known, and *that* all the Gentiles might hear: and I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion. II Tim. 4:18 - And the Lord shall deliver me from every evil work, and will preserve me unto his heavenly kingdom: to whom *be* glory for ever and ever. Amen.