

I Corinthians 7:25-34

A. I Corinthians 7:25 - Now concerning virgins I have no commandment of the Lord: yet I give my judgment, as one that hath obtained mercy of the Lord to be faithful.

1. Though Christ had not talked on this topic, Paul gives his own wisdom and advise. But also remember, Paul is under ___spiration. That gives him divine ___sight with authority.
2. [virgins] This could be women or men who were unmarried and ___er had sexual relations. Paul's character gave him credibility to speak on this subject. It is also possible Paul's ___gle status gave him a sympathetic heart to encourage them of God's providing strength.

I Timothy 1:15-16 - This *is* a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief. I Tim. 1:16 - Howbeit for this cause I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might shew forth all longsuffering, for a pattern to them which should here after believe on him to life everlasting.

Romans 12:1 - I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, *which is* your reasonable service.

B. I Corinthians 7:26 - I suppose therefore that this is good for the present distress, *I say*, that *it is* good for a man so to be.

1. Because of the problems and persecutions in their day, Paul's advice was for them to ___main in their present status. They could have been facing political, economic, and religious crises in Corinth.
*We know that ___ years from this writing, the Roman Emperor Nero falsely blamed Christians for the burning of Rome. This caused the ___ spread of a multitude of believers of all ages to be slaughtered.
**One said: Stripes and scourgings, tearings, stonings, plates of burning hot iron laid on them, deep dungeons, racks, stranglings, imprisonment, the teeth of wild beasts, gridirons, gallows, tossing upon the horns of bulls. When killed, their bodies laid upon heaps, and dogs were left to keep them, so there would be no burial.
2. Suffering alone is hard enough, let alone watching your ___ed ones (a mate or child or parent) go through it. Since this would be unbearable, Paul says it would be ___ to remain unmarried like him.

*This is to virgins and not the married.

Question? What bothers you the most: American's crime epidemic or the coming silencing and persecuting of believers?

C. I Corinthians 7:27 - Art thou bound unto a wife? seek not to be loosed. Art thou loosed from a wife? seek not a wife.

Paul's counsel is that if married, do not seek a divorce. If divorced (loosed), because of the present distress, do not seek to be remarried. This does not mean that ___body should get married, but those who do marry must be ready to accept the trials that will accompany it.

*Whatever those difficulties may be, they should hang in there and ___ure the hardships with their spouse.

D. I Corinthians 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.

1. Paul speaks to those who had been loosed (verse 27) having _____ lical reasons (I Corinthians 7). Paul prefers for them to remain unmarried due to the times. But, if they do remarry, they were _____ sinning. They were not guilty of wrongdoing.

2. Also, it was not wrong for the virgins to marry. They were free to make their own personal decision.
*The virgins needed to be _____ ended because of Corinth's wickedness.

3. [Nevertheless such shall have trouble in the flesh:] Paul knew that because of what was going on in their wicked world (persecution, physical pressures, trials, mistreatment, and fear), they would be _____ prived of necessities to _____ tain their lives (children).

*Paul says [but I spare you.]. His counsel was to help _____ vent them from going through the sufferings which he saw coming on the _____ zon.

*| One should never _____ clude the advice of wise and spiritual counsel.

Proverbs 11:14 - Where no counsel *is*, the people fall: but in the multitude of counsellors *there is* safety.

Question? 1. What is the best counsel you have received?
2. Did you ever do the opposite of wise counsel and you paid for that error?

E. I Corinthians 7:29 - But this I say, brethren, the time *is* short: it remaineth, that both they that have wives be as though they had none;

1. [But this I say, brethren, the time is short:] No doubt Paul believed the Rapture would be soon (I Thessalonians 4:13-18). But here this must be referring to the sensing - atmosphere of persecution that was getting ready to _____ plode. When it comes, it would cause _____ order with everything and _____ mal life conditions would disappear. Paul felt this happening because of certain events.

Acts 18:1,12, 17 - After these things Paul departed from Athens, and came to Corinth; Acts 18:12 - And when Gallio was the deputy of Achaia, the Jews made insurrection with one accord against Paul, and brought him to the judgment seat, Acts 18:17 - Then all the Greeks took Sosthenes, the chief ruler of the synagogue, and beat *him* before the judgment seat. And Gallio cared for none of those things.

2. Marriage relationships will not only be difficult, but perhaps _____ possible.

*Think: Loss of jobs, evil society's pressures, and even martyrdom showed the awful _____ ges coming.

3. Paul wanted the Corinthians to adopt an _____ nal mindset - perspective, and leave their worldly perspective (Colossians 3:1). Paul hoped they would use the short time they had left to glorify God.

Question? 1. How much time do you - we all have left?
2. Are we being faithful in doing something for His glory?

Think! Soon face to face! Time here is about _____ .

4. [that both they that have wives be as though they had none.]
 - a. Though married, it will not seem like it with the coming persecution that will separate, even do away with one's spouse. There are no guarantees when persecution comes.
 - b. Even though one is married, that is not to stop his devotion to God. We have responsibility to meet our wife's needs, but Christ is still to be _____. At times that could be _____gh, but does not remove responsibility to Him.

Colossians 1:18 - And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all *things* he might have the preeminence.

Matthew 10:37 - He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.

Question? How much do we love Him above everything else? Any _____?

F. I Corinthians 7:30-31 - And they that weep, as though they wept not; and they that rejoice, as though they rejoiced not; and they that buy, as though they possessed not; I Cor. 7:31 - And they that use this world, as not abusing *it*: for the fashion of this world passeth away.

1. [And they that weep, as though they wept not;]
 - a. Paul will use the positive statement, then cancel the positive with a negative statement. He is saying - declaring that very soon what one was doing, he will _____ be doing.
 - b. Those who cry, shed tears, weep, the time was coming (near) that there would be no tears _____ to cry. Those who are glad, joyful, the time was near when a joyful attitude would be _____ existent. Those buying, purchasing, acquiring things, the time was coming when they will be as those not _____ing nor _____ing anything. Those who use the resources, the things of this world, the time was near that his world was about to change for the _____se.
2. Paul's point is that the things of this world that they were used to are _____ permanent. As a matter of fact, these things would be used against them with the changes coming.

*Paul is challenging them that they should not be _____occupied with earthly circumstances or allow earth's ways to determine or control their spiritual growth. This was because soon everything would be turned _____side down and nothing would be normal again when persecution increases.

**What they were used to would not be the same, and they would become the _____my of society.

Question? Can you begin to _____ something like this starting to happen in America? How?

G. I Corinthians 7:32 - But I would have you without carefulness. He that is unmarried careth for the things that belong to the Lord, how he may please the Lord:

1. Paul again promotes the advantage (at that time) of being single and not entangled in family _____ries. With things getting worse, he did not want them to have a divided mind or to be pulled between serving the Lord and providing for their family.
 2. Being single allowed one to give his _____divided attention to Christ in living and service. He could consecrate his _____al life to Christ without having to make Christ second place.
- Question? What is the biggest battle we fight that too often keeps Christ from being our priority or first love?

H. I Corinthians 7:33 - But he that is married careth for the things that are of the world, how he may please *his wife*

1. In contrast, the married man would be _____ concerned with the things of this world and the _____ fare of his wife (family). The man, now having the responsibility of providing for her, means he now has to be involved in the commercial world leaving _____ time to serve the Lord.
2. Paul's point is that because of the impending distress and Christ's soon return, it just was not the _____ to get married. They would be suffering affliction (verse 28), and still required to provide - please their wife (kids). Then they would not have the time (very _____) for the things of God.
Question? What is the ratio of time you give your wife - kids - job, and then the Lord? Why?

I. I Corinthians 7:34 - There is difference *also* between a wife and a virgin. The unmarried woman careth for the things of the Lord, that she may be holy both in body and in spirit: but she that is married careth for the things of the world, how she may please *her* husband.

1. Like the unmarried man, the unmarried woman and virgin can be concerned about the things of the Lord with _____ me, energy, and dedication. She can surrender totally her body and spirit to the Lord. There are _____ binding obligations to hinder her.
2. The woman who is married devotes her time, energy, dedication, devotion to her husband and kids. That will also _____ volve her in the things of the world (to meet family needs).

I Timothy 5:14 - I will therefore that the younger women marry, bear children, guide the house, give none occasion to the adversary to speak reproachfully.

*This is not wrong or a negative. It is just, once again, _____ time in serving the Lord in that distressing time.

**Usually today the danger is her time and effort in pleasing her husband, but _____ the Lord.

Question? What is the biggest thing you take away from this lesson?