

1 Corinthians 7

King James Version (KJV)

(This chapter is Paul's opinion only. He was answering a letter that came to him from Corinth)

7 Now concerning the things whereof ye wrote unto me: It is good for a man not to touch a woman. (This is Paul's opinion only. Not written anywhere else) (I take it with a grain of salt) (They must have had mistresses)

²Nevertheless, to avoid fornication, let every man have his own wife, and let every woman have her own husband. (Marry someone for life and be blessed. Stay away from adultery)

³Let the husband render unto the wife due benevolence: and likewise also the wife unto the husband. (Treat each other as equals, with respect)

⁴The wife hath not power of her own body, but the husband: and likewise also the husband hath not power of his own body, but the wife. (You become one flesh; each can make the other happy)

⁵Defraud ye not one the other, except it be with consent for a time, that ye may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again, that Satan tempt you not for your incontinency. (If you must separate for work or for some other reason, you should both agree, so that neither becomes unfaithful to the other. Otherwise, don't go)

⁶But I speak this by permission, and not of commandment. (This is Paul's opinion; not a commandment from God)

⁷For I would that all men were even as I myself. But every man hath his proper gift of God, one after this manner, and another after that. (Paul stayed single because he always traveled. He had to go from city to city to teach the Word of God)

⁸I say therefore to the unmarried and widows, it is good for them if they abide even as I. (Don't envy married people. It may or may not be the best for you)

⁹ But if they cannot contain, let them marry: for it is better to marry than to burn. (If they burn with passion, better to get married than to whore around)

¹⁰ And unto the married I command, yet not I, but the Lord, Let not the wife depart from her husband: (Stay together)

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.

¹² But to the rest speak I, not the Lord: If any brother hath a wife that believeth not, and she be pleased to dwell with him, let him not put her away. (As long as she does not interfere with his Christianity. Don't let an unbelieving spouse turn your family away from God)

¹³ And the woman which hath an husband that believeth not, and if he be pleased to dwell with her, let her not leave him. (As long as he does not interfere with her Christianity; don't let an unbelieving spouse turn your family away from God)

¹⁴ For the unbelieving husband is sanctified by the wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified by the husband: else were your children unclean; but now are they holy. (Maybe the Christian will teach the other, and the whole family will be blessed)

¹⁵ But if the unbelieving depart, let him depart. A brother or a sister is not under bondage in such cases: but God hath called us to peace. (If the unbelieving spouse wants to leave because you insist on a Christian family; then let <him or her> leave. Better to lose the spouse than to lose your Christianity and peace in your family)

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? (God does the saving; not us)

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. (Let people leave if they wish to leave. Unlike islam and other false doctrines and cults, Christianity is a voluntary choice)

¹⁸Is any man called being circumcised? let him not become uncircumcised. Is any called in uncircumcision? let him not be circumcised. (Jesus fulfilled all blood ordinances on the cross; that includes circumcision of males and animal sacrifices to God. Jesus did not end the law <10 commandments> as some ignorant preachers teach)

¹⁹Circumcision is nothing, and uncircumcision is nothing, but the keeping of the commandments of God. (The Jews kept making a big deal of this. They insisted that gentile converts to Christianity must be circumcised) (Obeying the commandments of God is what you should be working on)

²⁰Let every man abide in the same calling wherein he was called. (Everyone has his own gifts from God. Don't imitate someone else's gifts)

²¹Art thou called being a servant? care not for it: but if thou mayest be made free, use it rather. (You can serve God whether you are a servant or a free man)

²²For 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. (God's Truth sets us free spiritually, yet we are His servants just the same)

²³Ye are bought with a price; be not ye the servants of men. (Redeemed by Jesus, not by men)

²⁴Brethren, let every man, wherein he is called, therein abide with God. (Be happy with your calling and your gifts, and God will bless you)

²⁵Now 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. (Paul's opinion only)

²⁶I suppose therefore that this is good for the present distress, I say, that it is good for a man so to be.

²⁷Art thou bound unto a wife? seek not to be loosed. Art thou loosed from a wife? seek not a wife.

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.

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

³⁰ 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;

³¹ And they that use this world, as not abusing it: for the fashion of this world passeth away. (This flesh life is short. Put your efforts into the next life, not so much into this one)

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: (Preachers had to travel extensively in those days. A home life would have been almost impossible)

³³ But he that is married careth for the things that are of the world, how he may please his wife. (God comes first, family comes second; Caring for your family could get in the way of your ministry if you had to travel so much, like Paul did. Today, this is much less of a problem because preachers aren't required to travel)

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. (Caring for husband and children)

³⁵ And this I speak for your own profit; not that I may cast a snare upon you, but for that which is comely, and that ye may attend upon the Lord without distraction. (comely = seemly, natural) (Paul was just giving honest advice, not to entrap anyone)

³⁶ But if any man think that he behaveth himself uncomely toward his virgin, if she pass the flower of her age, and need so require, let him

do what he will, he sinneth not: let them marry. (Get married if you think that is your calling, even if you are a preacher)

³⁷ Nevertheless he that standeth stedfast in his heart, having no necessity, but hath power over his own will, and hath so decreed in his heart that he will keep his virgin, doeth well. (Also good for a preacher to stay single)

³⁸ So then he that giveth her in marriage doeth well; but he that giveth her not in marriage doeth better. (Single people have more time to do God's Work. Married people also need to care for a family)

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.

⁴⁰ But she is happier if she so abide, after my judgment: and I think also that I have the Spirit of God. (Paul's opinion only)