

I CORINTHIANS: LESSON 4

INTRODUCTION:

With the study of the seventh chapter, we begin a new section of Paul's letter, though it is still closely related topically to the previous section (7:2). Paul now concerns himself with answering the Corinthians' written questions indicated by the phrase: "*Now concerning the things whereof ye wrote...*" (7:1). Such things become specified, and serve as a major focal point for Paul's comments throughout the remainder of the epistle (7:1, 25; 8:1; 12:1; 16:1).

In this chapter, Paul offers authoritative advice in regard to marriage, due to local influence and distressing circumstances. Such advice hinges upon the principle that man's relationship with God is the ultimate responsibility of man, and from this one responsibility, all other relationships find meaning and importance (7:2, 19, 35)

IV. THE PROBLEM REGARDING MARRIAGE (7:1-40)

- A. **The Problem of Fornication and Sexual Desires (v. 1-9)**
- B. **The Problem of Separation or Divorce (v. 10-11)**
- C. **The Problem due to one's Faithful Service unto God (v. 12-14)**
 - 1. Marriage between a believer and unbeliever should continue (v. 12-14)
 - 2. The understanding of the unbeliever separating (v. 15-16)
 - 3. The permanence of the relationship illustrated (v. 17-24)
- D. **The Problem due to the Current Distress (v. 25-40)**
 - 1. Remaining single advisable (v. 26-28)
 - 2. Brevity of life needs to be considered (v. 20-31)
 - 3. Admonition to be free from distracting cares of this life (v. 32-35)
 - 4. Advice to the father of a virgin (v. 36-38)
 - 5. Advice to the widow (v. 39-40)

QUESTIONS:

1. Is the unmarried person wrong in remaining in his or her single state?
2. Because of what sin is such a state not advisable?
3. What major responsibility is implied in marriage?
4. Does one partner shoulder this responsibility more than his or her mate?

5. Sexual relations were to be stopped for what reason?
 - a. Was this abstinence to be permanent?
 - b. Was such abstinence mandatory?
6. Explain Paul's statement, "*Yet I would that all men were even as I myself*" (v.7):
7. To whom does Paul say, "*It is better to marry than to burn*"?
8. What is the difference between "*the married*" in verse 10, and "*the rest*" in verse 12?
9. What statements in verses 10-13 show that marriage was a permanent relationship?
10. Explain what Paul means in v. 15 by the statement, "*the brother or sister is not under bondage in such cases...*":
11. What relationships are under consideration by "*as God hath called each, so let him walk*"?
12. "Ye were _____ with a _____; become not _____ of men."
13. In light of the present distress, what does Paul recommend regarding marriage?
14. What were the reasons for Paul's recommendation?
15. Was the father sinning in giving his virgin daughter in marriage?
Was the best of action considering the present distress on the Christians?

16. How long is a person bound in marriage?

17. What were the conditions of remarriage for the widow in verse 39?

18. Paul's judgments were inspired by God. (T) (F)