

1 Corinthians 17 – 7:1-13

Things Written about Marriage

1. 7:1 – Things written that are unknown

- a. Now, Paul addresses their letter to him – 7:1, 7:25, 8:1, 11:2, 11:17, 12:1, 15:12, 16:1
- b. Assumptions are made about audience, the things written, and Paul's condition.
- c. People flock to this chapter for marriage "counseling": beware of vague context.
- d. When the Bible is vague, you see people's bias clearly.

2. Things we do know

- a. Marriage is godly, not an escape from sin. Gen 2:24, Prov 18:22, 1Tim 5:14,
- b. Fornication is wrong at all times :1 Cor 5:1, 6:9, 18, Eph 5:3, 1Thess 4:3, 2Tim 2:22
- c. Divorce is never a good thing; God divorced Israel - Jer 3:8
- d. We are not under the law: and law issues will come up - 7:6, 10, 18, 25, 39,
- e. Chapter 6 talked about our bodies not being our own - 6:19-20

3. 7:2-5 – Admonitions from the Law?

- a. "to avoid fornication" – this is strange premarital advice
- b. "Due benevolence": charity and kindness is a duty - Eph 5:33, Col 3:18-19
- c. Power is mutual: the two have become one, and are not separate - Eph 5:31
- d. Defrauding = doing each other wrong is depriving yourself – Eph 5:28-29, 6:8, 15
- e. The law had such duties and abstinences – Exo 21:10, Lev 18:19, Num 6

4. 7:6-9 – All Men As I Myself

- a. "Not commandment" - Paul says it is not by the marriage laws.
- b. Most think it is Paul's singleness; I have doubts - Rom 9:1-2, Gal 4:12
- c. No where is the gift of singleness listed : 1 Cor 12, Rom 12, Eph 4, but Rom 6:23
- d. Unmarried and widows should not get married? Bah humbug. 1 Tim 4:3, 5:14
- e. "Abide even as I" – Paul was free from the law and religious traditions - 7:20
- f. What if "burn" meant the fire in 1 Cor 3:13 for being unfaithful?

5. 7:10-13 – Commands about Divorce

- a. The Lord commands to stay married (why would she leave?) – Mat 19:8
- b. We are to be faithful: this is the theme. Faithfulness is what they lacked
- c. Remain unmarried or reconciled: the point, believers fight for the marriage.
- d. "speak I, not the Lord" - Inspiration does not mean they knew it – Acts 1:16
- e. The unbeliever could be a religious person. This is a mixed marriage.
- f. If they be not pleased – we are not the one that causes division. 1 Cor 1:10