

1 Corinthians 19 – 7:25-40

Concerning Virgins

1. 7:25-28 – Concerning Virgins

- a. The NIV shows its bias in 1 Cor 7:1 as “it is good for a man not to marry”
- b. The Catholics use 1 Corinthians 7 to defend celibacy as a sacrament
- c. Not all the Bible is talking to you! Ex. priests in Lev 21:13-14; servants in Exo 21
 - i. Marriage affects legal rights: Numbers 36:6-13; Lev 22:10-13, Deut 25:5-10
 - ii. Marriages resulting in sin: Deut 7:3, Mal 2:11, Neh 13:27, Mat 19:9
 - iii. Laws about virgins - Exodus 22:16-17, Deut 22:28
- d. But now, Paul obtained mercy to be faithful – Rom 11:32, 1 Tim 1:16-17, 1 Cor 4:2
- e. The “present distress” takes most of the blame for the strange admonitions
- f. “Seek not a wife”...evidently in the present “distress”, because 1 Tim 5:14
- g. Spiritually: it is good advice to always be content with your state – Phil 4:11

2. 7:29-31 – The Fashion of This World

- a. “Trouble in the flesh”: Does marriage cause trouble, or do people trouble them?
- b. “Time is short” – We are not the Mormons who teach celestial marriage.
- c. “though they had none” – attention to serving God: 2 Cor 4:17, Rom 5:4, 1Tim6:7
- d. It all passes away: marriages, possessions, circumstances, joys

3. 7:32-35 – Pleasing the Lord

- a. Will sacrifice please the lord? Somebody tell that to the nuns - Micah 6:7-8
- b. You are accepted in the beloved – Rom 8:8-9, 1 Cor 1:21, Eph 1:5-6, 1 Thess 4:1
- c. A godly marriage should do all in the name of the Lord – Col 3:17, Eph 5:21
- d. Unmarried people care for things of the world as well: 2 Tim 4:10, Phil 2:21
- e. It may help you mature to learn the mind of Christ toward your spouse
- f. Could it be the worldly things are such as Col 2:20-23, Gal 4:3, 4:9-12

4. 7:36-38 – A Hard Passage

- a. Don't plan a marriage based on these verses: for you or your daughter.
- b. “Need so require” – Is there a law requirement here? You're not under law.
- c. One guy has an obligation, and the other has freedom.
- d. The supposed “gift of singleness” shows up again. Why? Gen 2:18, Eph 5:32
- e. Who is giving her, and to whom? Nobody can know for sure.

5. 7:39-40 – Free to Marry in the Lord

- a. This sounds the same as Romans 7:2-3, we are not under the law, but...
- b. “Only in the Lord” – This and “to be faithful” are the Pauline judgments
- c. Can two walk together, unless they be agreed? – Amos 3:3, 2 Cor 6:14
- d. “if she so abide” – to be faithful, to abide in her calling, 1 Cor 7:20