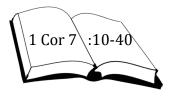
Marriage for life / Social Situations

1 Corinthians Lesson 15 Sun 6/24/2018



Today's text is used incorrectly by many who want to find exceptions to "married for life." We will consider those attempts/arguments, for the purpose of helping us understand what <u>IS</u> being taught.

A few things to keep in mind as we study:

- the Bible does not conflict itself (in this chapter, nor this chapter with other passages)
- Paul was an inspired apostle (1 Cor 4, Gal 1:11-2:10)
- Jesus taught clearly on marriage principles, & based his teaching on what God had <u>always</u> intended (Mt 19:3-12, Gen 2:18-24, Mt 5:31-32, Mk 10:2-12, Lk 16:18)
- Paul is writing Christians with <u>all kinds</u> of moral and marital backgrounds. Some had become Christians & their spouse hadn't (vs 12-14); others had become Christians after leaving their spouse, or after their spouse had left them (vs 11); others had both become Christians (vs 1-7 & 10-11); others were unmarried or widowed, or had an unmarried child (vs 8-9, 25-40); and some would become Christians but still at times choose not to follow God's laws (vs 11).

Unscriptural Teachings:

(A) Leaving is OK if you don't divorce Vs 10-11

This argument is made based on verses 11 & 15.

- Why is this <u>not</u> in keeping with the Bible? [consider Mt 19:4-6, 1 Cor 7:39, & the points in the intro comments.]
- 2. Summarize what vs 10-11 IS teaching.

(B) If your spouse leaves you: Vs 12-16

- it's a second exception to God's marriage laws
- it's OK to remarry

• It's the equivalent of adultery

This argument is made based on vs 15, and assumes that the "bondage" is referring to the "marriage bond". (*However*, the <u>context</u> so far has been meeting our marital obligations, & staying together in a "mixed" marriage – *not* the marriage itself.)

- **3.** Explain why this is <u>not</u> what is being taught? [consider 1 Cor 7:39; the context of these verses; Jesus' teaching; & the intro points.]
- 4. The "under bondage" in vs 15 is <u>not</u> referring to being married. What <u>is</u> it referring to? [Hint: see the ESV; look at the context. "Bondage" here and "bound" in vs 39 come from different words!]

5. Summarize what vs 12-16 IS teaching.

(C) Paul is teaching his opinions throughout this section, so they aren't binding vs 12-16, 25-40

This argument is made based on Paul referring to some teachings as from the Lord (vs 10-11), and other as not from the Lord (vs 12-16, 25-40).

However, note: (1) Paul lists instruction as "from the Lord" that Jesus taught – like a quote - & instructions as "I say, not the Lord" that PAUL is giving as an apostle, clarifying that he is not quoting Jesus; (2) Paul states 12-16 as <u>commands</u>, but he lists 25-38 & 40 as his opinion - & says there is no right or wrong choice in *this* section (25-40); (3) He bases his advice to widows on a statement of fact (39-40); (4) His advice of 25-40 is based on a *current social situation* (vs 26, 29-31)

- **6.** Paul says his advice regarding a man giving his daughter in marriage (25-40) is based on what unusual circumstances? [vs 26, 29-31]
- If Paul *were* teaching this (25-38) as applying for <u>all time</u>, how would it be in conflict with God's word (& thus make him <u>not</u> inspired)? [consider Gen 2:18-25, Gen 9:1, Mt 19:4-6, Titus 1:5-6, 1 Tim 3:1-2]
- 8. What part(s) of 1 Cor 7:12-40 are listed as advice/opinion based on the social situation of that day, & what part(s) are stated as commands, that are *not* tied to the social situation of the Corinthians?
- 9.(a) What is vs 12-16 teaching regarding marriage of Christians to non-Christians?
 - (b) What is vs 25-40 teaching regarding the unmarried?

(D) Paul mistakenly thought Jesus was about to return

This is argued based on vs 26 & 29-31. This assumption would make Paul's teaching in this section invalid, if it's based on a wrong assumption.

10. If Paul was mistakenly teaching this, thinking Jesus was returning soon – what would that say about his being inspired, AND the rest of Paul's writings in the New Testament? [Hint: in addition to the Intro comments, consider Mt 24:36, Jer 28:9, Deut 18:21-22]

At first read, **verses 17-24** seem to be tangential – unrelated to the topic of the rest of the chapter (marriage situations). However, Paul is using situations they <u>could</u> understand, to help illustrate how this same principle applies to marriage (the rest of chapter 7.) **His point is** – **becoming a Christian does not change our social situation.** (It only changes our spiritual status.)

- **11.** What does Paul repeat 3 times to make sure we get this? [vs 17, 20, 24]
- **12.** What specific social situations does Paul list that are <u>not</u> changed by becoming a Christian?
- 13. (a) There are some today who teach that baptism washes away an unscriptural marriage, making it OK to be remarried. What does this section (17-24), as well as vs 12-16 & 39, tell us about <u>this</u> teaching?

(b) Others take this section (17-24) to teach that whatever marriage you happen to be in when you are baptized, is the one that God counts; any previous marriages don't count. *What is the flaw in this logic?*

Note from verses 12-13 – becoming a Christian might have the consequence of your spouse leaving you *because of* that decision!