



MESSAGE/SERIES:

Restoration Series_ **“REMAIN FOCUSED”**

DATE: November 17, 2019

SCRIPTURE FOR THIS WEEK:

(These verses will help you understand themes within as you read our core text as scripture proves scripture)

1 Corinthians 7:1-40, **1 Corinthians 6:9-10 (Sexually immoral)**, **1 Corinthians 6:20 (Glorify God in your body)**, **Matthew 5:32 (Divorce)**, **Hebrews 13:4 (Faithful)**, **Romans 7:2 (Bound to)**, **1 Thessalonians 3:5 (Temptor)**, **1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 (Time short)**, **11-15 (Younger widows)**, **Malachi 2:16 (Be faithful)**, **Romans 12:3 (Measure of faith given)**, **Galatians 5:2**, **Galatians 3:28**, **1 John 2:3**, **John 8:36**, **Romans 13:11 (Time)**, **1 John 2:17 (World fading away)**

OPENING SCRIPTURE:

[1 Corinthians 7:1-40]

7 Now concerning the matters about which you wrote: “It is good for a man not to have sexual relations with a woman.” ² But because of the temptation to sexual immorality, each man should have his own wife and each woman her own husband. ³ The husband should give to his wife her conjugal rights, and likewise the wife to her husband. ⁴ For the wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband does. Likewise the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife does. ⁵ Do not deprive one another, except perhaps by agreement for a limited time, that you may devote yourselves to prayer; but then come together again, so that Satan may not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.

⁶ Now as a concession, not a command, I say this. ⁷ I wish that all were as I myself am. But each has his own gift from God, one of one kind and one of another.

⁸ To the unmarried and the widows I say that it is good for them to remain single, as I am. ⁹ But if they cannot exercise self-control, they should marry. For it is better to marry than to burn with passion.

¹⁰ To the married I give this charge (not I, but the Lord): the wife should not separate from her husband ¹¹ (but if she does, she should remain unmarried or else be reconciled to her husband), and the husband should not divorce his wife.

¹² To the rest I say (I, not the Lord) that if any brother has a wife who is an unbeliever, and she consents to live with him, he should not divorce her. ¹³ If any woman has a husband who is an unbeliever, and he consents to live with her, she should not divorce him. ¹⁴ For the unbelieving husband is made holy because of his wife, and the unbelieving wife is made holy because of her husband. Otherwise your children would be unclean, but as it is, they are holy. ¹⁵ But if the unbelieving partner separates, let it be so. In such cases the brother or sister is not enslaved. God has called you to peace. ¹⁶ For how do you know, wife, whether you will save your husband? Or how do you know, husband, whether you will save your wife?

Live as You Are Called

¹⁷ Only let each person lead the life that the Lord has assigned to him, and to which God has called him. This is my rule in all the churches. ¹⁸ Was anyone at the time of his call already circumcised? Let him not seek to remove the marks of circumcision. Was anyone at the time of his call uncircumcised? Let him not seek circumcision. ¹⁹ For neither circumcision counts for anything nor uncircumcision, but keeping the commandments of God. ²⁰ Each one should remain in the condition in which he was called. ²¹ Were you a bondservant when called? Do not be concerned about it. (But if you can gain your freedom, avail yourself of the opportunity.) ²² For he who was called in the Lord as a bondservant is a freedman of the Lord. Likewise he who was free when called is a bondservant of Christ. ²³ You were bought with a price; do not become bondservants of men. ²⁴ So, brothers, in whatever condition each was called, there let him remain with God.

The Unmarried and the Widowed

²⁵ Now concerning the betrothed, I have no command from the Lord, but I give my judgment as one who by the Lord's mercy is trustworthy. ²⁶ I think that in view of the present distress it is good for a person to remain as he is. ²⁷ Are you bound to a wife? Do not seek to be free. Are you free from a wife? Do not seek a wife. ²⁸ But if you do marry, you have not sinned, and if a betrothed woman marries, she has not sinned. Yet those who marry will have worldly troubles, and I would spare you that. ²⁹ This is what I mean, brothers: the appointed time has grown very short. From now on, let those who have wives live as though they had none, ³⁰ and those who mourn as though they were not mourning, and those who rejoice as though they were not rejoicing, and those who buy as though they had no goods, ³¹ and those who deal with the world as though they had no dealings with it. For the present form of this world is passing away.

³² I want you to be free from anxieties. The unmarried man is anxious about the things of the Lord, how to please the Lord. ³³ But the married man is anxious about worldly things, how to please his wife, ³⁴ and his interests are divided. And the unmarried or betrothed woman is anxious about the things of the Lord, how to be holy in body and spirit. But the married woman is anxious about worldly things, how to please her husband. ³⁵ I say this for your own benefit, not to lay any restraint upon you, but to promote good order and to secure your undivided devotion to the Lord.

³⁶ If anyone thinks that he is not behaving properly toward his betrothed, if his passions are strong, and it has to be, let him do as he wishes: let them marry—it is no sin. ³⁷ But whoever is firmly established in his heart, being under no necessity but having his desire under control, and has determined this in his heart, to keep her as his betrothed, he will do well. ³⁸ So then he who marries his betrothed does well, and he who refrains from marriage will do even better.

³⁹ A wife is bound to her husband as long as he lives. But if her husband dies, she is free to be married to whom she wishes, only in the Lord. ⁴⁰ Yet in my judgment she is happier if she remains as she is. And I think that I too have the Spirit of God.

BACKGROUND & OTHER STUDY HELPS:

[CELIBACY] “Different views on celibacy existed in the ancient world. Most ancient writers condemned it; many Jewish teachers even considered it sinful, because reproduction was essential and marriage was the proper deterrent from sexual offenses and distractions. (“Replenishing the earth” was considered a biblical commandment for all Jews.”

“A number of groups of philosophers and minor religious sects, however, as well as many Essenes among the Jews, advocated celibacy or the rejection of marriage. Some philosophers rejected marriage but thought that sexual release with prostitutes was acceptable since it would not tie a person down (cf. comment on 6:12–20).”

Craig S. Keener, *The IVP Bible Background Commentary: New Testament* (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1993), 1 Co 7:1–7.

[VIEWS OF MARRIAGE IN CORINTH] “One may divide some of the ancient opinions roughly as follows:

- (1) Marriage and procreation are vital for all who are physically capable of it (the majority view).
- (2) Marriage is a distraction and should never be undertaken by the wise man except in the rare instances where one might find a spouse equally devoted to the philosophic lifestyle (the Cynic position).
- (3) Marriage is good for most people, but one must make exceptions for those too committed to other spiritual pursuits to take time for it (an early-second-century rabbi). Paul combines elements of the second and third views.”

Craig S. Keener, *The IVP Bible Background Commentary: New Testament* (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1993), 1 Co 7:1–7.

[v5 CONJUGAL RIGHTS] “ Jewish teachers who were trying to formulate laws in this period differed on how long a man could vow to abstain from intercourse with his wife; one school said two weeks, and the other school said one week. Although Paul would not make longer abstinence grounds for divorce, as they did (7:10–13), he clearly wishes to limit even abstinence by mutual consent, leaving the specifics to the couple.”

Craig S. Keener, *The IVP Bible Background Commentary: New Testament* (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1993), 1 Co 7:5.

[BETROTHAL] “There was a betrothal among the Jews and the Romans, but this was more than our ‘engagement’; it was in effect marriage, stage 1, and could be broken only by divorce proceedings. And it was not brought about by an agreement of the couple; it was an arrangement made by the parents.”

Leon Morris, *1 Corinthians: An Introduction and Commentary*, vol. 7, Tyndale New Testament Commentaries (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1985), 119.

OUTLINE:

Introduction: Chapter 7 deals with the subjects of *engagement, marriage, remarriage*, and continues the subject matter from last week of *the Sexual relationship...*

Paul in his tender care for the church continues to address the circumstances that the people at Corinth had questions about in their letter to Paul. Paul’s purpose in dealing with these situations is to promote love and longing for Christ...**IT IS A REMAIN-FOCUS**

The Common Problem: Most of us get so focused on what love can give us rather than what the love of God can give through us...

Because we are devoted to the Lord FIRST, We must honor Him by REMAINING FOCUSED in whatever season of life he has us in...

I. (v1-5, 10-11) BECAUSE WE ARE DEVOTED TO GOD, WE MUST HONOR CHRIST IN MARRIAGE

Not everyone is called to marriage, but marriage has great purpose in God’s plan. Yes, Marriage is a reflection of the relationship between God and the Church ([Ephesians 5:25-33](#)), but also BY THE GRACE OF GOD *marriage serves to meet the needs of man* and to *display Biblical Self giving love...*

(v2) “...because of the temptation to sexual immorality...”

- (v2) GOD HAS PROVIDED Marriage **as a tool** to keep us from Sexual immorality
 - (v9, 36) Instruction if cannot control passions

(v3-4) “The husband should give to his wife her conjugal rights, and likewise the wife to her husband.”

- GOD HAS PROVIDED Marriage to meet our needs
 - (v3) **Conjugal Needs**= *indebtedness, a sum owed; obligation, debt, due*, includes Sexual part, intimacy
 - Cannot with Conjugal rights to our spouse
 - (v4) God has given rights to your body to your spouse when it comes to the sexual relationship
 - (v5) Even agreed upon times of fasting from Sexual relationship should be short (due to temptation)
 - *All of this is provided because God knows our needs and has provided for us not to sin*
 - *Self control is the driver for the state of marriage or singleness*
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II. (v6-9,17-24, 25-40) BECAUSE WE ARE DEVOTED TO GOD, WE MUST HONOR CHRIST IN SINGLENES

Not everyone is called to marriage, and Paul says it is good to remain single if they can exercise self-control which means a commitment to abstinence... people who can do this have the spiritual gift of singleness...

- GOD HAS PROVIDED Singleness as a gift
 - (v6) “Each one has his own gift...”
 - (v6) Singleness is a Spiritual Gift
 - (v9) *most people’s sexual desires are too strong to stay single- “...it is **better to marry than to burn with passion.**”*
- GOD HAS PROVIDED has assigned Singleness to some
 - (v17) “...Only let each person lead the life that the Lord has assigned to him, and to which God has called him...”
 - (v17) “**Assigned**” or Apportioned out- “to distribute, divide out, deal out to,” translated “hath dealt”
 - *God has placed us in specific circumstances to be glorified in those circumstances... we must seek to honor God in that state (Principle includes relational, vocational, and ministerial)*
 - (v24) “ So, brothers, in whatever condition each was called, there let him remain with God.”

- Remaining with God in attitude & action leads to devotion
- We must not get discouraged in our circumstances by trust God
- We must not seek another calling or assignment unless God places the desire upon us (God moves people through desire but will never contradict scriptural principle in doing so)

III. (v12-40) **BECAUSE WE ARE DEVOTED TO GOD, WE MUST HONOR CHRIST IN TIMES OF TRIAL**

Many times people are in trial in relationships and we are tempted to defend ourselves and fight for what we want, but because we are devoted to the Lord we should remain as we are called in that season.

- GOD HAS PROVIDED Instruction in time of transition (Married)
 - (v12) New believer married to an unbeliever
 - (v12) “...she consents to live with him, he should not divorce her.”
 - *If unbeliever consents to stay the Believer should stay*
 - *Staying is a witness to the unbeliever of God’s love (Self giving love)*
 - *Staying represents God’s grace to the unbeliever*
 - *Staying, the believer can be a tool of the Lord to bring to Salvation*
 - (v15) “if the unbelieving partner separates, let it be so. In such cases the brother or sister is not enslaved. God has called you to peace.”
 - *If the unbeliever wants to leave (abandonment) the believer is to “let it be so”.*
- GOD HAS PROVIDED Instruction in times of Distress
 - (v26) “in view of the present distress it is good for a person to remain as he is...”
 - (v26) being married in times of great persecution (AD 70) is difficult to care for yourself and your family (protection/service balance)
 - (v26) May couple with the last days in which we live as the Lord’s return is nearing times will intensify and become more and more difficult
 - (v28) “Yet those who marry will have worldly troubles, and I would spare you that.”
 - (Hebrews 10:33, James 1:27, Romans 8:35)

- GOD HAS PROVIDED freedom from anxiety through singleness
 - (v32) “I want you to be **free from anxieties**”
 - Free from Anxiety= **without worry**, free from concern, carefree
 - *Worried or concerned about caring for spouse*
 - *Versus Concerned with eternal and things of God alone*
- GOD HAS PROVIDED freedom to remarry after spouse dies if needed
 - (v39) “A wife is **bound to her husband as long as he lives**. But if her husband dies, she is free to be married to whom she wishes, **only in the Lord.**”
 - If Spouse dies the living spouse is free to remarry as it is not sin
 - Must marry a believer- “(39b)...*only in the Lord*”

-----Message from Pastor Michael-----
Church,

The Lord loves us and has given us specific instruction and wise counsel through Paul in this chapter. If you are struggling as a single person you do not have the gift of singleness and need to be in prayer about God’s mate for you while honoring Him in your present state. If you are married to honor God by serving your spouse and pointing them to Christ through the way God uses you to meet their needs. If you have suffered loss or have been abandoned in marriage, it is ok to remarry if you have necessity. God loves us and has given freedom and grace in these areas. We must be devoted to the Lord first and honor Him where He has us. What a joy to serve the Lord!

Love in Christ,
Pastor Michael

