

October 15, 2023

Marriage 1 Corinthians 7 Pastor Kirk Gambrell

Vol. 13 Num. 42

Using This Study

❶ EXAMINE His Word

What does God SAY? Open your time with prayer. The words God uses to communicate matters, so go back and pay close attention to the details that are emphasized or repeated in the passage.

❷ EXPLORE His Word

What does God MEAN? Asking questions of the text helps surface how the details relate to the message God wants to communicate.

❸ EMBRACE His Word

Why does it MATTER to me? Embrace God by responding to what you discover in His word in faith and obedience.



This week we will be studying the 7th chapter of 1st Corinthians. This section can be a very challenging passage to understand. Paul is addressing some hard topics surrounding marriage. Scripture is always clear that God does not like divorce and it is consistent here as well. Paul does dive in to tackle some of the harder situations that people may face. Join us the week as we look at God's plan for marriage and how we can honor God with our relationships.



Teaching on Marriage

7 Now concerning the things about which you wrote, it is good for a man not to touch a woman. **2** But because of immoralities, each man is to have his own wife, and each woman is to have her own husband. **3** The husband must fulfill his duty to his wife, and likewise also the wife to her husband. **4** The wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband *does*; and likewise also the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife *does*. **5** Stop depriving one another, except by agreement for a time, so that you may devote yourselves to prayer, and come together again so that Satan will not tempt you because of your lack of self-control. **6** But this I say by way of concession, not of command. **7** Yet I wish that all men were even as I myself am. However, each man has his own gift from God, one in this manner, and another in that.

8 But I say to the unmarried and to widows that it is good for them if they remain even as I. **9** But if they do not have self-control, let them marry; for it is better to marry than to burn *with passion*.

10 But to the married I give instructions, not I, but the Lord, that the wife should not leave her husband **11** (but if she does leave, she must remain unmarried, or else be reconciled to her husband), and that the husband should not divorce his wife.

12 But to the rest I say, not the Lord, that if any brother has a wife who is an unbeliever, and she consents to live with him, he must not divorce her. **13** And a woman who has an unbelieving husband, and he consents to live with her, she must not send her husband away. **14** For the unbelieving husband is sanctified through his wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified through her believing husband; for otherwise your children are unclean, but now they are holy. **15** Yet if the unbelieving one leaves, let him leave; the brother or the sister is not under bondage in such *cases*, but God has called us to peace. **16** For how do you know, O wife, whether you will save your husband? Or how do you know, O husband, whether you will save your wife?

17 Only, as the Lord has assigned to each one, as God has called each, in this manner let him walk. And so I direct in all the churches. **18** Was any man called *when he was already* circumcised? He is not to become uncircumcised. Has anyone been called in uncircumcision? He is not to be circumcised. **19** Circumcision is nothing, and uncircumcision is nothing, but *what matters is* the keeping of the commandments of God. **20** Each man must remain in that condition in which he was called.

21 Were you called while a slave? Do not worry about it; but if you are able also to become free, rather do that. **22** For he who was called in the Lord while a slave, is the Lord's freedman; likewise he who was called while free, is Christ's slave. **23** You were bought with a price; do not become slaves of men. **24** Brethren, each one is to remain with God in that *condition* in which he was called.

25 Now concerning virgins I have no command of the Lord, but I give an opinion as one who by the mercy of the Lord is trustworthy. **26** I think then that this is good in view of the present distress, that it is good for a man to remain as he is. **27** Are you bound to a wife? Do not seek to be released. Are you released from a wife? Do not seek a wife. **28** But if you marry, you have not sinned; and if a virgin marries, she has not sinned. Yet such will have trouble in this life, and I am trying to spare you. **29** But this I say, brethren, the time has been shortened, so that from now on those who have wives should be as though they had none; **30** and those who weep, as though they did not weep; and

those who rejoice, as though they did not rejoice; and those who buy, as though they did not possess; ³¹ and those who use the world, as though they did not make full use of it; for the form of this world is passing away.

³² But I want you to be free from concern. One who is unmarried is concerned about the things of the Lord, how he may please the Lord; ³³ but one who is married is concerned about the things of the world, how he may please his wife, ³⁴ and *his interests* are divided. The woman who is unmarried, and the virgin, is concerned about the things of the Lord, that she may be holy both in body and spirit; but one who is married is concerned about the things of the world, how she may please her husband. ³⁵ This I say for your own benefit; not to put a restraint upon you, but to promote what is appropriate and *to secure* undistracted devotion to the Lord.

³⁶ But if any man thinks that he is acting unbecomingly toward his virgin *daughter*, if she is past her youth, and if it must be so, let him do what he wishes, he does not sin; let her marry. ³⁷ But he who stands firm in his heart, being under no constraint, but has authority over his own will, and has decided this in his own heart, to keep his own virgin *daughter*, he will do well. ³⁸ So then both he who gives his own virgin *daughter* in marriage does well, and he who does not give her in marriage will do better.

³⁹ A wife is bound as long as her husband lives; but if her husband is dead, she is free to be married to whom she wishes, only in the Lord. ⁴⁰ But in my opinion she is happier if she remains as she is; and I think that I also have the Spirit of God.

● EXAMINE His Word (Observation) (For personal preparation)

What does God SAY? Prayerfully note significant details from this passage.

Make 10 of your own observations from this passage. Avoid jumping to make interpretive decisions or drawing applications. Save those for the sections that follow. At this point just observe this passage and what it says. Look for things that are emphasized, repeated, and what stands out to you. Look at the verbs, what actions are in the text? Who is involved in the text? There is no right or wrong answer, just list 10 things you see in the text.

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🕒 EXPLORE His Word (Interpretation) (For Community Group discussion)
What does God MEAN?

1. What reason does Paul give for a man to have a wife and for a wife to have a husband?

2. Is Paul giving a command about marriage? Explain

3. Who are the “rest” in verse 12?

4. What does Paul tell slaves that become believers? Why?

5. What is Paul saying in verses 29-31?

6. Why does Paul talk about giving daughters away in marriage?

7. Is a wife bound after her husband dies?

③ EMBRACE His Word (Application) (For Community Group discussion)
Why does this MATTER to me?

8. How should we view divorce?

9. How should we view remarriage after divorce?

10. What is Paul's main point in this passage?

Summarize your thoughts on the passage

Write about what God wants you to **KNOW**, to **FEEL**, and to **DO**...

Sermon Notes