



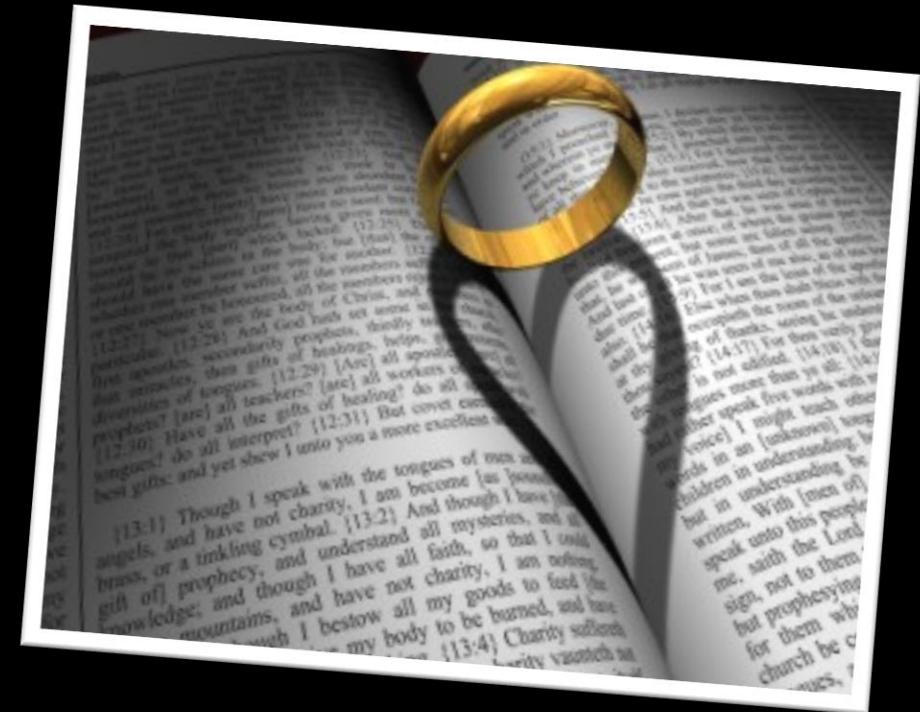
1ST LETTER TO THE CORINTHIANS

Christian Answers to Real Life

MORE ON PURITY

After discussing purity in the church and in the personal life of Christians (1 Cor. 5-6), Paul moves on to discuss purity in marriage by answering specific questions from the church in Corinth about marriage.

We could title 1 Cor. 7, **“Everything You Wanted To Know About Marriage But Were Afraid To Ask.”**



DIRECT ANSWERS TO DELICATE QUESTIONS

I Corinthians 7:1a

¹ Now concerning the matters about which you wrote...

In 1 Cor. 7, Paul is answering questions he had received in a letter from the church in Corinth. We only have the answers but from them we can have a good idea of the questions.





SHOULD ALL CHRISTIANS MARRY?

Wouldn't you like to know?

SHOULD ALL CHRISTIANS MARRY?

1 Corinthians 7:1-2

¹ 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.



BIBLICAL ANSWER

A) Yes, all Christians should get married.

B) No, no Christian should marry.

C) It is OK to remain single and devote your life to serving the Lord, but many will feel the need for marriage. If you are drawn to marriage from within, it is best for you to marry.

JESUS' ANSWER

Matthew 19:10-11 (CEV)

10 The disciples said, "If that's how it is between a man and a woman, it's better not to get married."

11 Jesus told them, "Only those people who have been given the gift of staying single can accept this teaching."



MARRIAGE IN GOD'S PLAN

Genesis 2:18 (CEV)

¹⁸ The LORD God said, "It isn't good for the man to live alone. I need to make a suitable partner for him."

Genesis 1:27

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; **male and female he created them.**

Genesis 5:2 (CEV)

² God created men and women to be like himself. He gave them his blessing and called them human beings.



HOW IMPORTANT IS INTIMACY IN MARRIAGE?

Wouldn't you like to know?

BIBLICAL ANSWER

- A) Only for procreation (having children).
- B) It is important but in an atmosphere of mutual love and respect.
- C) It is not very important if the spiritual connection is strong.
- D) It is important but only if I don't have a headache.

WHAT ABOUT INTIMACY?

1 Corinthians 7:3-5

³The husband should give to his wife her conjugal rights, and likewise the wife to her husband. ⁴For 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.



WHAT ABOUT INTIMACY?

1 Corinthians 7:3-5

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.



SHOULD SINGLES AND WIDOWS MARRY?

Wouldn't you like to know?

BIBLICAL ANSWER

- A) Singles yes; widows not so much.
- B) Widows yes; singles not so much.
- C) Stay single, if you are able to do so and be content.
- D) Get married, then see what happens.

SHOULD SINGLES AND WIDOWS MARRY?

1 Corinthians 7:3-5

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.**





SHOULD I DIVORCE IF WE ARE NOT GETTING ALONG?

Wouldn't you like to know?

BIBLICAL ANSWER

- A) Not if you can help it.
- B) Yes, but only if you fall out of love.
- C) Yes, if you receive a prophetic word.
- D) Only when you both agree to it.

SHOULD I DIVORCE IF WE ARE NOT GETTING ALONG?

1 Corinthians 7:10-11

¹⁰To 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.



BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVE ON DIVORCE

Malachi 2:16

¹⁶ “For the man who does not love his wife but divorces her, says the LORD, the God of Israel, covers his garment with violence, says the LORD of hosts. So guard yourselves in your spirit, and do not be faithless.”

Mark 10:2-9

⁵ **Jesus** replied, “Moses gave you this [divorce] law because you are so heartless. ⁶ But in the beginning God made a man and a woman... Then they are no longer two people, but one. ⁹ And no one should separate a couple that God has joined together.”



WHAT IF I AM MARRIED TO AN UNBELIEVER?

Wouldn't you like to know?

BIBLICAL ANSWER

- A) Leave and marry a Christian.
- B) Pretend you are not a Christian to keep the marriage together.
- C) If the spouse agrees to remain married, do so.
- D) Try to convert the spouse but if that doesn't work, leave and stay unmarried.

WHAT IF I AM MARRIED TO AN UNBELIEVER?

1 Corinthians 7:12-14

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.





WHAT IF MY UNBELIEVER SPOUSE LEAVES ME?

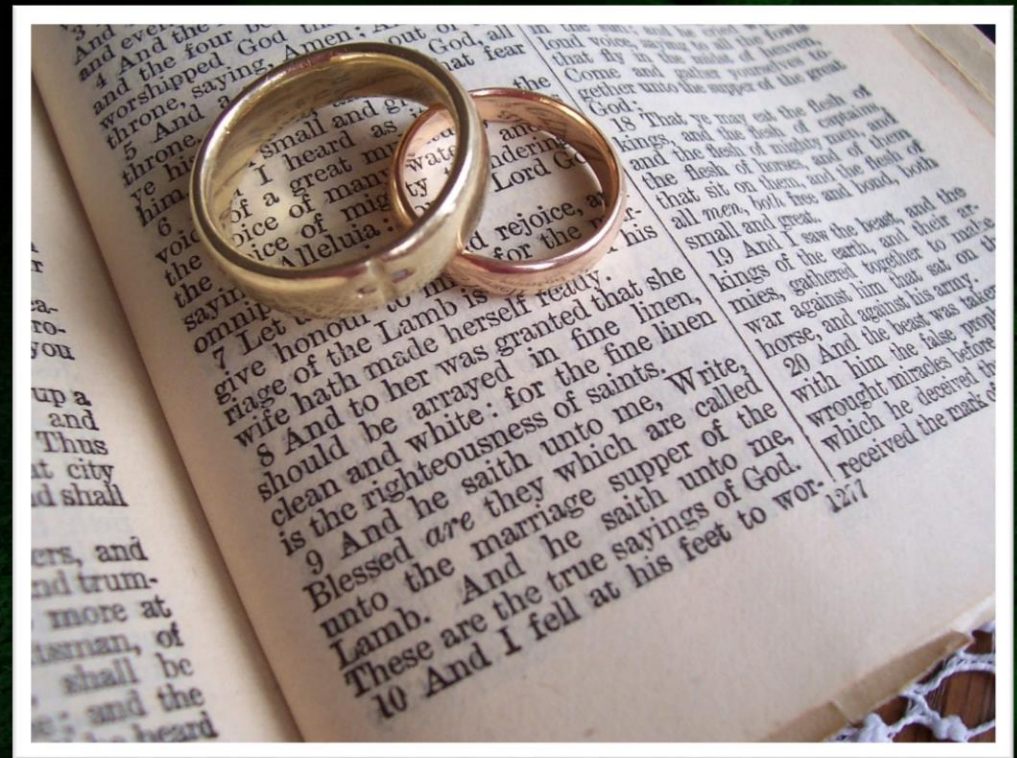
Wouldn't you like to know?

BIBLICAL ANSWER

- A) Pray, fast, and convince him/her to come back.
- B) Celebrate and move on to your next marriage.
- C) Try to forget about it.
- D) Seek the peace of God and trust him to lead you.

Living TRUTH

Marriage was
God's idea and He
stands behind it!



THE LETTERS OF PAUL

TRUTH *Living*



If God gives you
grace to be
single, that is
a gift!

THE LETTERS OF PAUL

Living TRUTH

If you can avoid
a divorce, do!



THE LETTERS OF PAUL