

First

CORINTHIANS

CHRIST ALONE: TOGETHER



Undivided

1 Corinthians Summary - Chapters 1 – 7

1:1-9 THE FOUNDATION: All who trust Jesus have undergone a radical, life altering experience.

- 1:10-17 Your disunity is not a good sign.

1:18-2:16 Wisdom of culture is completely different from the wisdom of God.

3:1-23 You are not living as though you are being led by the mind of Christ. (Wisdom of culture NOT wisdom of God)

1 Corinthians Summary - Chapters 1 – 7

- 4:1-21 You are arrogant.
- 5:1-13 You are more sexually immoral than non-Christians.
- 6:1-11 You are not resolving conflict with each other.
- 6:12-20 You are engaged in illicit romantic relationships.
- **7:1-16 You have a lousy view of marriage and singleness.**

Paul continues to call the Corinthians and us to a life of undivided devotion to Christ. Because our most defining relationships have the power to deepen our devotion or distract from it, Paul encourages careful, kingdom-minded thinking about these relationships.

Now Concerning The Betrothed...

1 Corinthians 7:25-40

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

1 Corinthians 7:25-40

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

1 Corinthians 7:25-40

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

1 Corinthians 7:25-40

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

1 Corinthians 7:25-40

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

1 Corinthians 7:25-40

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.

In View of the Present Distress...

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The Present Distress

- In Thessalonica – Acts 17
- In Corinth – Acts 18
- In Ephesus – Acts 19

In View of the Coming Distress...

The Necessities of the Current Situation

- V.26 – The present distress
- V.29 – The time is short
- V.31 – The present form of the world is passing away

Remain As You Are

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1 Corinthians 7:28-29

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Advantages of Singleness

- Fewer worldly troubles (v.28-29)
- **Greater freedom** to pursue the things of the Lord (v.32-35)
- **Fewer anxieties** concerning worldly things (v.32-35)

1 Corinthians 7:32-34

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- **In Paul's judgment – happier (v.38,40)**

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What Paul Does Not Say About Singleness

- It guarantees an increased focus on God
- Is more pleasing to God (in itself)
- Frees you from all anxieties (worldly concerns)

Anxieties of Singleness

- Spiritual Temptations
 - Passions/Intimacy (7:9)

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- Spiritual Temptations
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 - Pride
- Mental & Emotional
- Social

Anxieties of Marriage

- Increased troubles (v.28)
- The needs of their spouse (v.33-34)
 - How to please your wife/husband
- Worldly distractions (v.32,35)

Advantages of Marriage

- Controlling the passions (7:9)
- A teammate (Genesis 2; Eccl.4)
- A living picture of the Gospel (Ephesians 5)

Is This A Law for Singleness?

- No.

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- “I have no command from the Lord, but I give my judgment...” v.25
- “If you marry, you have not sinned” v.28
- “I say this for your own benefit, not to lay any restraint upon you...” v.35

Paul's Desire for the Corinthians

1 Corinthians 7:35

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Paul's Desire for the Corinthians

- Married? Stay Married
- Single? Stay Single
- Engaged?
 - If your passions are strong, self-control weak – get married
 - If not, stay single
- Widowed? You are free to choose.
- **For all – Undivided Devotion to Christ**

1 Corinthians 7:29-31

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Undivided Devotion

In Christ – We have a radical new relationship to the world (that is passing away)

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- The way we react to circumstances

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- The way we react to circumstances
- The way we interact with stuff

Undivided Devotion

In Christ – We have a radical new relationship to the world (that is passing away)

- The way we react to circumstances
- The way we interact with stuff
- The way we see relationships

Undivided Devotion

- Single
 - Divided devotion
 - Undivided devotion
- Married
 - Divided devotion
 - Undivided devotion

Undivided Devotion

A radical new relationship to the world

- Circumstances with Jesus –
then the rest of circumstances
- The stuff Jesus says is important –
then the rest of the stuff
- Our relationship with Jesus –
flowing into the rest of our relationships