

Live In Undivided Devotion To The Lord

1 Corinthians 7:1-40

Key Verse: 7:35

“I am saying this for your own good, not to restrict you, but that you may live in a right way in undivided devotion to the Lord.”

I. PAUL'S INSTRUCTIONS ON MARRIAGE IN AN IMMORAL SOCIETY (1-16)

1. What was Paul's answer to the matter they had written him about? (1) Based on 6:18-20, what does verse 1 mean? (See the footnote. The KJV and RSV translate "not to marry" as "do not touch.") What were Paul's practical instructions on how to flee sexual immorality? (2-5) What was Paul's view of celibacy? (6-7; cf. Mt19:11-12)

2. What advice did Paul give to the unmarried? (8-9) To the married? (10-11) Why did he say, "...not I, but the Lord"? (10; cf. Mt19:3-9) How does Paul instruct those who have an unbelieving spouse? (12-16) Though it is not easy, why should these instructions be kept?

II. REMAIN IN THE SITUATION TO WHICH GOD CALLED YOU (17-28)

3. What rule did Paul give to all the churches? (17) What situations did Paul have in mind? (18-21) Why should Christians not try to change their human situation? Through Christ, what new relationship do we have with God? (22-24) What really counts? (19b)

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4. What advice did Paul give to virgins, and what motivated his advice? (25-28)

III. FREE FROM EARTHLY CONCERN (29-40)

5. Read verses 29-31. What attitude toward human affairs was Paul teaching? On what basis did he give this advice? How can we live like this? (Ro13:11-14; 2Pe3:10-13)

6. What can divide a Christian's interests? (32-34) What should be our primary concern? What advice does Paul give to engaged people? (36-38) To widows? (39-40) Read verse 35. What did Paul want for us, whether married or unmarried?