

2013-2014



First Love
the corinthian letters

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The Corinthian Letters

Lamplighters Women's Bible Study

October 23, 2013



CHRISTIAN MARRIAGE

1 Corinthians 7

Paul's instructions to:

- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------|
| 1. Married Christians | 1 Cor. 7:1-16 |
| to Christians | v. 1-11 |
| to non-Christians | v. 12-16 |
| 2. "Maintain the Lane" | 1 Cor. 7:17-24 |
| 3. Unmarried Christians | 1 Cor. 7:25-40 |



What Is and Isn't

- Paul IS responding to specific questions
- Paul IS NOT creating a complete theology of marriage.



Corinthian Context

- Greek dualism
- “hyper-spiritualism”
- Hedonism
- Asceticism



Paul's instructions to Christians married to Christians

- Celibacy is permitted
- It is good to have a spouse
- Don't abstain from sex within marriage
- Limited exception: both agree, for prayer, for very short amount of time
- Be in tune with each other spiritually and physically
- Stay married; don't divorce
- If you divorce, stay single or reconcile



Paul's instructions to Christians married to non-Christians

- Don't initiate a divorce
- Remain together if the non-Christian spouse so desires
- If the unbelieving partner leaves, let them leave



“Maintain the Lane”

- Stay put and bloom where you’re planted
- Take no drastic, sudden action to change your external circumstances



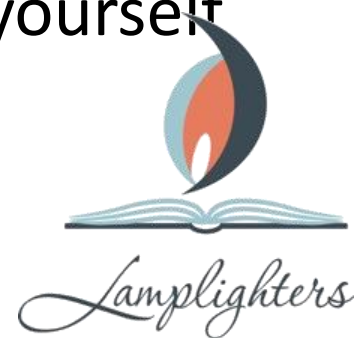
Paul's instructions to unmarried Christians

- Celibacy is good
- Marriage is good
- Think carefully about marriage
- Marriage is a life-time commitment



God's Walls of Protection Around Marriage

- Marriage and celibacy are both good
- Marriage is mutual—husbands and wives have equal privileges and responsibilities
- Sex is a good gift to be exercised only within marriage
- Christians should not divorce; if they do, they should either remain single or reconcile
- Continue in marriage to a non-Christian but if the non-believing spouse wants to leave, let them.
- Serve the Lord in whatever situation you find yourself
- Marry a believer
- Marriage is a lifetime commitment



Divorce and Remarriage

1. No divorce or remarriage ever permitted
2. Divorce permitted at times, but never remarriage
3. Both divorce and remarriage permitted in cases of adultery or desertion
4. Both divorce and remarriage permitted for a wide variety of reasons

“divorce for any reason” vs.

“divorce as the unforgiveable sin”



"Daddy always taught us that we are to love, the Holy Spirit convicts, and God judges. The problem is that some Christians try to do all three."

--Gigi Graham, daughter of Billy Graham



Click on the link to hear an amazing testimony of one woman's courage of conviction in her marriage.

<http://theweek.com/article/index/99512/the-last-word-he-said-he-was-leaving-she-ignored-him>

