1 – **Concerning Marriage – Part 2**1 Corinthians 7

2 – **Paul’s Goal**

* ***“This I say for your own benefit; not to put a restraint on you, but to promote what is appropriate and to secure undistracted (undivided;* ESV*) devotion to the Lord.”*
(vs. 35; cf., 1 Cor. 10:33; )**
	+ **The Lord must come 1st** over all other relationships**.** (Matthew 10:34-39; Luke 14:26)
	+ Marriage of those who serve the Lord should help foster devotion.(1 Cor. 9:5)

3 - **Understanding the context…**

* **We don’t know the exact questions the brethren in Corinth sent to Paul. (vs. 1)**
* There were “***present distresses***” (vs. 26) that **needed to be considered when considering marriage**.
(cf., Matthew 24:19; Luke 23:29)

4 - **Questions About God’s Will For Marriage**

* 1st question: **Is marriage honorable?**Answer, Yes! (vs. 2)
* **Not: who may get married, factors for a successful marriage or reasons a marriage may end**.
* **Should they get married** (1-9), **stay married** (10-11) and **what about marriage to unbelievers** (vs. 12-16).

5 - **To The Unmarried…**

* ***“It is good…”*** (vs. 1; cf., vs. 7-8) ***-* there are some “positives” re: celibacy**, in view of
*“****the present distress****”.*
* ***“Because of immoralities…”*** (vs. 2, 9)
A sin that must be avoided because it will cost our souls.
* “***Each… is to have (their) own***…” (vs. 2)
	+ Not someone else’s! (Matthew 14:3-4)
	+ Not addressing who is eligible… someone isn’t.
	(vs. 10-11)

6 - **To The Married…**

* **The instructions/command of the Lord, “*the wife should not leave her husband*” (vs. 10).**
* **Divorce is not to take place!**
* **Aside from the exception of the Lord in Matthew 19:9 for fornication, any other divorce is without “*cause*” and any who do must “*remain unmarried*”.**

7 - **Those Married To An Unbeliever…**

**Are they married? (vs. 12-16)**

* “**I say, not the Lord**” - Jesus dealt with marriage in general, Paul w/ mixed marriages.
* The unbeliever is “***sanctified***” through the believing spouse. How so?
* **Not personally**. (Ezekiel 18:20; Romans 14:12;
2 Cor. 5:10; Mark 16:15-16)
* The marriage is “***sanctified***” and is to be kept pure. (Deut. 7:3-4; Josh. 23:12; Ezra 9)

8 - **Those Married To An Unbeliever…**

**If the unbelieving spouse departs… (vs. 15)**

**The believer is “not under bondage”.**

**What “bondage”?**

Different words used here in vs. 15 and in vs. 27:

Vs. 15 - “**douloo**” meaning “**make a slave of; reduce to bondage**. (Thayer) “To be subjugated” (The Complete Word Study Dictionary) **Never used of marriage**!

Vs. 27 - “**deo**” meaning “**to bind, tie, fasten**” and is used in **Romans 7:2 re: marriage**.

9 - **Those Married To An Unbeliever…**

**A Christian is never under bondage to their mate (or anyone else) to give up their relationship with Christ.**

**Doesn’t mean no longer married. (note again vs. 11 and Matthew 19:9)**

**A Christian cannot subject their faith to an unbeliever any more than a servant to his unbelieving master.**

**Consistency with vs. 10-11.**

10 - **Those Married To An Unbeliever…**

**The goal of anyone married to an unbeliever… the salvation of their souls. (vs. 16; 1 Peter 3:1-4)**

* **Whether by their complete commitment to the Lord or by staying with the unbeliever and demonstrating their “chaste and respectful behavior”.**

11 - **God’s Plan To Save Our Souls**

**God sent His Son to die for our sins…**

**If you are convicted of your sins…**

**If you believe that Jesus is the Son of God…**

**If you are willing to confess Him before men…**

**If you will be baptized in His name…**

**God will forgive you and save you…**