1 – **Concerning Marriage -**1 Corinthians 7

2 – **Paul’s Work With The Corinthians**

* 2nd missionary journey, Acts Chapter 18.
* **Character of the city**… likely candidates? Problems to address?
(1 Corinthians 6:9-11)
* **Paul heard reports**… (1:11; 11:18)
* **They had questions**… (7:1; 8:1; 12:1; 16:1)

3 - **Paul’s Work With The Corinthians**

While in Corinth, we know Paul preached on matters of sin that impacted the home and family including God’s plan for marriage. (1 Corinthians 6:9-11)

4 - **Paul’s Concerns With The Corinthians**

* Division - Ch. 1
* Worldly wisdom – Ch. 2
* Immorality being accepted - Ch. 5
* Brethren suing brethren - Ch. 6
* Marriage - Ch. 7
* Liberties/Eating of meat - Ch. 8
* Supporting preachers - Ch. 9
* Idolatry – Ch. 10
* Worship / Lord’s Supper - Ch. 11
* Use of spiritual gifts - Ch. 12-14
* The resurrection - Ch. 15
* Christian benevolence -Ch. 16

5 – **God’s Plan For Marriage**

* *Marriage is* ***from God “in the beginning”****. (Genesis 2:24; Matthew 19:4-5)*
* *Marriage is* ***honorable****.
(Hebrews 13:4; 1 Timothy 4:3)*
* *Marriage as designed by God is* ***beautiful and perfect and for our good****. (Genesis 2:18ff; Ephesians 5:22ff)*

6 - **God’s Plan For Marriage**

*“Marriage is for man’s benefit and he should* ***appreciate and honor it with deep reverence for Him who established it****…* ***Marriage therefore involves God****;* ***He established and sanctified it****.* ***He did so out of His own wisdom*** *and for the* ***betterment of man****.”* (Earl Robertson)

7 - **What Jesus Taught…**

* **Matthew 5:32, “*But I say to you that everyone who divorces his wife, except for the reason of unchastity (fornication,* ASV*), makes her commit adultery; and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery*.”**
* **Matthew 19:9, “*And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery; and whoever marries her who is divorced commits adultery*." (NKJV)**

8 – **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)

9 - **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)