

# 1 CORINTHIANS 7 vs 1

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Jesus said, I will build My Church. And knowing that, Paul gives us many interesting details as to what that lively edifice looks like: Paul speaks to those in Corinth not in hocus pocus spiritual sounding speech, but in meaty familiar context of straight talk. 1 Corinthians 3 when he said:

brothers, I could not speak to you as spiritual, but as carnal **sarkikos** from **sarx**, meaning: **flesh**, the thin veneer on the surface. In Acts we read: the Lord will pour out His Spirit upon all sarx which sounds like a good thing, doesn't it? Paul, a good teacher, who was taught by the Best is not using a condemnatory tone in this 1<sup>st</sup> letter, much like we hear from self-righteous peddlers. To Romans, Paul wrote: to be carnally minded is death... We should understand that verse: to be only carnally minded is deadly, since God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.



Marriage, Celibacy and Divorce

**<sup>1</sup> Now concerning the things about which you wrote: It is good for a man not to touch a woman.** / in the roman empire, public bath houses and temple prostitutes were daily occurrences; but they were not part of the Creator's agenda.

**<sup>2</sup> due to immoral sex being so common, each man should have sex with his own wife, and each woman have sex with her own husband** / because some men were not monogamous doesn't mean God approved. The creator made Adam and Eve.

**<sup>3</sup> Let the husband fulfill his marital duty to his wife: and likewise the wife to her husband.**

**<sup>4</sup> The wife has no authority over her own body, but the husband:**

**and likewise also the husband has no authority over his own body, but the wife.** / neither can claim their body belongs to them; it is a gift from God who created life, rented out to each person.,

**<sup>5</sup> Do not deprive one another -- except when you agree for a time, when you to devote yourselves to prayer and fasting. Then come together again, so Satan does not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.**

**<sup>6</sup> But I say this as a compromise, not as a command.**

**<sup>7</sup> I wish that all people were just like me. But I know each has his own gift from God, one person in this way, and another in that way.**

**<sup>8</sup> I say to the unmarried and widows, it is good for them if they remain as I live, for it is better to marry than to burn with desire.**

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<sup>9</sup> **but if they do not have self-control, let them marry:**

<sup>10</sup> To the married I give this instruction, yet not I, but the Lord -- a wife is not to leave her husband:

<sup>11</sup> but if she does leave, she must remain unmarried or be reconciled to her husband -- and a husband is not to divorce his wife.

<sup>12</sup> **But I -- not the Lord, say to the rest:** If any brother has an unbelieving wife, and she wants to live with him, let him not divorce her.

<sup>13</sup> Also if any woman has an unbelieving husband, and if he wants to live with her, let her not divorce him.

<sup>14</sup> **For the unbelieving husband is made whole by the wife,** and the unbelieving wife is made whole by the husband.

Otherwise your children would be unclean; but now they are set apart for God.

<sup>15</sup> Yet if the unbeliever leaves, let him leave. **A brother or a sister is not bound in such cases: but God has called us to live in peace.**

<sup>16</sup> O wife, for all you know, you might save your husband;

O husband, for all you know you might save your wife.

<sup>17</sup> Let each one live their life in the order as God has assigned, when the Lord called them, so let them walk. This is what I establish in all assemblies.

<sup>18</sup> Was any one already circumcised when he was called? let him not undo his circumcision. Was any one called while uncircumcised? He should not be circumcised.

<sup>19</sup> Circumcision does not matter, and uncircumcision does not matter, **but keeping the instructions of God matters.**

<sup>20</sup> Let everyone remain in the situation in which they were called.

<sup>21</sup> Were you called while being a slave? Don't let it concern you: but if you can become free, by all means do it.

<sup>22</sup> **For he who is called by the Lord, as a slave, is the Lord's freedman:**

**likewise he who is called as a free man, is Christ's slave.**

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<sup>23</sup> **You were bought at a price; do not become slaves of men.**

<sup>24</sup> Brothers and sisters, each person is to remain with God, in the situation he was called.

<sup>25</sup> Now about virgins I have no instruction from the Lord: yet I give my opinion, as one who by the Lord's mercy is faithful.

<sup>26</sup> Because of the present distress, I think it is good for a man to remain as he is.

<sup>27</sup> Are you bound to a wife? Do not seek to be released. Are you released from a wife? Do not seek a wife.

<sup>28</sup> However, if you do marry, you have not sinned; and if a virgin marries, she has not sinned. But such people will have trouble in this life: and I am trying to spare you.

<sup>29</sup> And I say this, brothers and sisters, **the time is limited**: so from now on those who have wives should be as though they had none;

<sup>30</sup> and those who weep, as though they did not weep; and those who rejoice, as though they did not rejoice; **and those who buy, as though they didn't own anything**;

<sup>31</sup> And those who use the world, as though they did not make full use of it: for this world in its current form, is passing away.

<sup>32</sup> But I want you free from concern. The unmarried man cares for the things that belong to the Lord, and how he may please the Lord:

<sup>33</sup> but the married man cares for the things that are of the world, how he may please his wife,

<sup>34</sup> and his interests are divided, an unmarried woman or a virgin cares for the things of the Lord, that she may be both whole in body and spirit: but a married woman cares for the things of the world -- how she may please her husband.

<sup>35</sup> Now I say this for your own benefit; **not to put a restriction on you**, but to promote what is proper, so you may be devoted to the Lord without distraction.

<sup>36</sup> If any man thinks he is acting improperly toward a virgin, if she is beyond the usual age to marry, let him do what he wants, he does not sin: let them marry.

<sup>37</sup> But he who stands firm in his heart, having control over his own will, and has decided in his heart to keep her as his fiancée, he will do well.

<sup>38</sup> So then he who marries his fiancée does well; but he who does not marry will do better.

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<sup>39</sup> A wife is bound by the law as long as her husband lives. But if her husband dies, she is free to marry anyone she wants -- only in the Lord.

<sup>40</sup> In my opinion, she is happier if she remains as she is. And on this I think that I also have the Spirit of God.

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