

God's Guidelines for Marriage

A Study in 1 Cor. 7:1-16

I. Introduction

- In the first seven verses of this chapter, Paul teaches celibacy is good, but that sexual temptation is potent, so choose your life carefully; In verses 8-16, Paul applies this truth to four groups of believers: (1) the formerly married, (2) Those married to believers, (3) Christians married to unbelievers wanting to remain married, and (4) Christians married to unbelievers who want to dissolve the marriage.

II. Addressing Concerns About Marriage, Singleness, and Sex (7:1-7)

1. Celibacy is a _____ thing
2. Sexual temptation is _____ so marriage is encouraged.
3. _____ in a marriage opens a door for sin to enter
4. Celibacy in life can be a _____
5. The *quality* of your faith is not dependent on your _____

III. Some Guidelines for Marriage

1. While celibacy is good, a strong desire to be _____ should be satisfied
2. The Christian should not _____ a marriage because they are wanting to follow Christ
3. If one spouse comes to Christ and the other does not, but wants to stay married, do not _____ the marriage
4. If the unbelieving spouse wants to leave, the Christian is not _____ to _____ in the marriage.

IV. Conclusion

1. Singleness is not a curse, but it can focus you on service in the Lord
2. Marriage is not to be treated lightly in the Lord
3. The sanctified life can either be lived single and celibate or married and committed

Answer Key:

I. Introduction

II. Addressing Concerns About Marriage, Singleness, and Sex (7:1-7)

1. (v. 1) Celibacy is a **GOOD** thing
2. (v.2) Sexual temptation is **STRONG** so marriage is encouraged.
3. (vv.3-5) **CELIBACY** in a marriage opens a door for sin to enter
4. (vv.6-7) Celibacy in life can be a **GIFT**
5. The *quality* of your faith is not dependent on your **MARITAL STATUS**

III. Some Guidelines for Marriage

1. (vv. 8-9) While celibacy is good, a strong desire to be **MARRIED** should be satisfied
2. (vv.10-11) The Christian should not **DISSOLVE** a marriage because they are wanting to follow Christ
3. (vv. 12-14) If one spouse comes to Christ and the other does not, but wants to stay married, do not **THROW OFF** the marriage
4. (vv. 15-16) If the unbelieving spouse wants to leave, the Christian is not **BOUND** to **REMAIN** in the marriage.

IV. Conclusion