

1 Corinthians Part One

Lesson #24, Chapter 7:8-16

Read all of chapter 7 before beginning your lesson. Ask the Lord for discernment and understanding of His Word.

1. Summarize what Paul was discussing in verses 1-7.
2. What is the special gift from the Lord that Paul wishes everyone had according to verses 7-8?
3. What are some reasons given in chapter 7 for why Paul wants everyone to enjoy this state? See verses 26, 29, 32-35.
4. Though happily single, Paul is the first to concede that not everyone has the gift of singleness. What is his recommendation for those who don't have the gift of singleness according to verse 9? What reason is given for this counsel (verse 9)?
5. Why would marriage be the best solution for a single person who does not have the gift of singleness? See verses 2-4.
6. What options for purity are available for a single person, who desires to be married, but isn't married? See Job 31:1; Ps. 119:9-11; Rom. 6:11-14; 1 Cor. 7:1; 2 Cor. 12:9-10; 1 Thess. 4:3, 7; Heb. 4:16; 1 Pet. 1:13-16.

7. As Paul instructs the Corinthians in matters of marriage, singleness, and salvation we see in verses 6, 10, 12, 17, 25, and 40 that Paul makes distinctions between teaching given from the Lord and Paul's own direction. First, why would Paul make those distinctions between his instruction and the Lord's?
 - a. Second, is there any disagreement between what the Lord instructed and Paul's teaching to the Corinthians?
 - b. Third, is there any authoritative difference between instruction from the Lord and the instruction from the Apostle Paul? See Luke 10:16; 2 Cor. 13:10; 1 Thess. 4:2, 8; Titus 2:15; 2 Pet. 3:2.
 - c. Fourth, how should we understand and apply the instructions given to us in chapter 7, whether from the Lord or from Paul?
8. What instructions does the Lord have for those who are married? See verses 10-11.
9. What further clarification does Paul add to the Lord's instructions in verses 12-13?
10. What question or misunderstanding on the part of the Corinthians is behind the instruction given in verses 10-13?

11. Why would it be tempting for a believer to leave their unbelieving spouse or to send them away?

12. Paul explains the reasoning behind the instructions given in verses 10-13. What do you learn in verse 14?

13. Define *sanctify* (ESV *made holy* [Strong's #37]).

14. What do you learn from the following verses about the sanctifying influence of believers? See Gen.30:27; 39:5; Rom. 11:16; 1 Tim. 4:5.

15. How is it possible for a believer to *sanctify* their unbelieving spouse?

16. What kind of hope and encouragement does that give to anyone married to an unbeliever?

17. Before looking at any commentaries, try explaining what Paul means at the end of verse 14, *for otherwise your children are unclean, but now they are holy*. The answer comes straight out of the context of this verse and the passage. Consider these questions as you compose your answer: What has Paul been discussing in the previous verses? What does he want believers to do? What effect should a believer have on unbelievers in their home?

18. The sanctifying influence of a believer in the home doesn't end with a spouse, but trickles down to the children as well. Though the home may not be united spiritually, how does God intend the believer to affect any children in the home? See verse 14 and Matt. 5:16; Acts 16:1; 2 Tim. 1:5.

19. What allowance is given for a spiritually mixed marriage according to verse 15?

20. What is the connection between God calling believers to peace and letting an unbelieving spouse leave the marriage? See also Rom. 12:18.

21. Explain how verse 16 ties in to the command given in verse 15.

22. What must every believer remember when it comes to the unbelievers, whether a spouse, a child, a friend, or a neighbor? See Eph. 1:4; 2:1-7; 2 Tim. 1:9; 1 Pet. 1:3.

23. No matter what our situation in life, like the Corinthians, we can glean some valuable lessons about the Lord. Review the following verses and summarize what you learn about God that would be a comfort anytime you find yourself in less than desirable circumstances: Ps. 33:6-12; Prov. 16:33; Rom. 8:28; Eph. 1:11.

Discovering the Treasures of the Word

God of our strength, from day to day
Direct our thoughts and guide our way;
O may our hearts united be
In sweet communion, Lord, with Thee.

God of our strength, on Thee we call;
God of our hope, our light, our all,
Thy name we praise, Thy love adore,
Our rock, our shield, forevermore.
~ Fanny Crosby