

Pre-Study Notes for 1 Corinthians Chapter 7 Verses 10-16

歌林多 前書 7:10-16 和合本
1 Corinthians 7:10-16 NIV (1984)

¹⁰至於那已經嫁娶的，我吩咐他們；其實不是我吩咐，乃是主吩咐說：妻子不可離開丈夫，

10 To the married I give this command (not I, but the Lord): A wife must not separate from her husband.

¹¹若是離開了，不可再嫁，或是仍同丈夫和好。丈夫也不可離棄妻子。

11 But if she does, she must remain unmarried or else be reconciled to her husband. And a husband must not divorce his wife.

¹²我對其餘的人說，不是主說，：倘若某弟兄有不信的妻子，妻子也情願和他同住，他就不要離棄妻子。

12 To the rest I say this (I, not the Lord): If any brother has a wife who is not a believer and she is willing to live with him, he must not divorce her.

¹³妻子有不信的丈夫，丈夫也情願和他同住，他就不要離棄丈夫。

13 And if a woman has a husband who is not a believer and he is willing to live with her, she must not divorce him.

¹⁴因為不信的丈夫就因著妻子成了聖潔，並且不信的妻子就因著丈夫（原文是弟兄）成了聖潔；不然，你們的兒女就不潔淨，但如今他們是聖潔的了。

14 For the unbelieving husband has been sanctified through his wife, and the unbelieving wife has been sanctified through her believing husband. Otherwise your children would be unclean, but as it is, they are holy.

¹⁵倘若那不信的人要離去，就由他離去罷！無論是弟兄，是姐妹，遇著這樣的事都不必拘束。神召我們原是要我們和睦。

15 But if the unbeliever leaves, let him do so. A believing man or woman is not bound in such circumstances; God has called us to live in peace.

¹⁶你這作妻子的，怎麼知道不能救你的丈夫呢？你這作丈夫的，怎麼知道不能救你的妻子呢？

16 How do you know, wife, whether you will save your husband? Or how do you know, husband, whether you will save your wife?

馬太福音 19:3-9和合本
Matthew 19:3-9 NIV (1984)

³有法利賽人來試探耶穌，說：人無論甚麼緣故都可以休妻麼？

Some Pharisees came to him to test him. They asked, “Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for any and every reason?”

⁴耶穌回答說：那起初造人的，是造男造女，
“Haven’t you read,” he replied, “that at the beginning the Creator ‘made them male and female,’

⁵並且說：因此，人要離開父母，與妻子連合，二人成為一體。
這經你們沒有念過麼？

and said ‘For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh’?

⁶既然如此，夫妻不再是兩個人，乃是一體的了。所以，神配合的，人不可分開。

So they are no longer two, but one. Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate.”

⁷法利賽人說：這樣，摩西為甚麼吩咐給妻子休書，就可以休他呢？

“Why then,” they asked, “did Moses command that a man give his wife a certificate of divorce and send her away?”

⁸耶穌說：摩西因為你們的心硬，所以許你們休妻，但起初並不是這樣。

Jesus replied, “Moses permitted you to divorce your wives because your hearts were hard. But it was not this way from the beginning.

⁹我告訴你們，凡休妻另娶的，若不是為淫亂的緣故，就是犯姦淫了；有人娶那被休的婦人，也是犯姦淫了。

“I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for marital unfaithfulness, and married another woman commits adultery.”

彼得前書 3:1和合本 1 Peter 3:1 NIV (1984)

你們作妻子的要順服自己的丈夫；這樣，若有不信從道理的丈夫，他們雖然不聽道，也可以因妻子的品行被感化過來；
“Wives, in the same way be submissive to your husbands so that, if any of them do not believe the word, they may be won over without words by the behavior of their wives”

Prestudy Notes

1 Corinthians 7:10-16:

1) Preliminary background and questions:

- a. In Corinth, after some became Christians, they thought their non-believing spouse was unclean, and they ought to divorce them
- b. Can a believer marry a non-believer?
- c. In verse 10 and vs 12, Paul writes “not I, but the Lord,” and “I, not the Lord”
 - i. Nothing in the Bible is personal opinion. Here Paul believes he is speaking the Lord’s viewpoint. Although he is not quoting Christ, he is speaking from what he knows and how he has been moved by the Holy Spirit
- d. Bible is not full of laws to look up and tell us what we can or cannot do
 - i. His Word already stated the truth of life – God’s loving kind commandment – we don’t look at it as obeying the law, without a desire in our heart to please God (then obedience of the law has no value) pleasing God is our desire – our willingness has to come back to what is our attitude toward what God has already said
 - ii. If you ask “can” or “can’t do” this or that - you can do things that are “okay” or “can do this” or “permitted” but if you don’t please God, it’s still no good, and even grace, repentance, and turning back are not enough.
 - iii. What is real repentance? Not like wanting to go to the movies, repenting first and then going to watch. Real repentance: standing from God’s viewpoint. That is repentance and turning back.
- e. Vs. 10-16 you see God’s heart and what kind of God he is:
 - i. Marriage is a covenant and no joking matter
 - ii. God is a loving God

2) Paul addresses 3 types of marriages and the question of divorce:

a. **Marriage between 2 Christians**

i. **vs. 10 – 11 – Two Christians must not divorce**

1. Only death separates a married couple, otherwise just married to one person – “no way out” ☺
2. Jesus says in Matthew 19 a believing couple is together unless there are exceptional circumstances (marital unfaithfulness)
 - a. Jesus is teaching that adultery breaks apart a marriage
 - b. Here, Paul does not contradict that – vs. 10 – 11 doesn’t turn to left or right.

3. vs. 10 says “to the married” – Paul is addressing Christian couples, but it is actually good for non-Christians to follow this, too
 - ii. Marriage is not our decision, it’s from the Lord, and represents Christ and his church
 1. Wife cannot leave her husband, husband must not divorce his wife
 2. This does not mean they will not argue, but they will show Christ and his church in the process
 3. Marriage is a covenant. God is a covenant giving God
 4. For the already married, God wants us to have a testimony within the marriage, resolve things
 - iii. Some people want to divorce. Don’t prevent them, but if they want to remarry, can only remarry that same person
 1. vs. 11 if wife leaves her husband, the covenant is still there, so she cannot marry someone else – that will result in adultery.
 2. It’s best to be reconciled to her husband.
 3. If God says not to divorce, but they divorce, what sin have they committed?
 - a. Break covenant, Adultery, Rebellion
 - i. In Old Testament, could be stoned for any of 3
 - ii. In New Testament times, what happens when people sin? Repent and turn back, 1 John 1:9 Jesus blood will cover their sin. So nothing happens right?
 - iii. Yes, but don’t forget, God can forgive your sins, but he won’t take away the consequences
- b. Marriage of 2 non-believers, and then 1 believes, and the non-believer is willing to stay and live with the believer**
- i. **vs. 12 – 14 – The believer and non-believer must not divorce**
 - ii. Believer can influence the non-believer
 1. it’s not your job to force the other to believe, but to show the Lord through your life, use your life to show blessing. Children raised in the Lord are blessed
 2. Maintain your actions so the other will believe in Christ. 1 Peter 3:1 not through words, but living out actions
 3. God is a God who has hope for people
 - iii. What does vs 14 mean? “Sanctified through his wife, sanctified through her husband”?
 1. It does not mean that one believer is enough for two of them. The non-believer is consecrated, separated out and given to the Lord – willing to be under God’s covenant, has God’s blessing, and God’s grace is on the family
 2. God considers the unbeliever consecrated, not saved - they must start from believing Jesus
 3. The non-believing spouse and children may be blessed, but it’s not enough - there are *greater* blessings – life change, eternal glory,

but these are not theirs unless they truly believe

c. Marriage of 2 non-believers, and then 1 believes, and the non-believer wants to leave

i. vs. 15 – 16 – the believer should let the non-believer leave

1. if someone doesn't want to believe, God will not force them to believe
2. if the believer is living out the gospel, but the non-believer wants to leave, the other can leave
3. want to live in peace

3) Can a believer marry a non-believer?

- a. The Bible doesn't address this. It would be a lie to just say, "No, don't think about it."
- b. It's a really bad idea, it will make you go through a lot of pain.
- c. It's not easy when 2 Christians get married. How much harder for one with a non-believer. If you do, you have a hope – God may save. Let us know God's heart, not simply ask "Yes," or "No."

4) Can 2 Christians get married?

- a. Yes, but the divorce rate is the same as for non-Christians.
- b. Don't simply think "Yes," or "No."
- c. Think: "Is this pleasing to God or not?"
- d. Think: "Will this cause Christ to grow in me?"
- e. Don't think: "I'll do what I want."
- f. No matter what blessing you get, it cannot compare to Christ's life growing in you. If your life doesn't change, none of the outer things will make much difference

5) Vessel or Tool?

- a. Will you be a vessel to hold Christ's likeness?
- b. Or a tool to mold other people's vessels until they look like how God wants?
- c. We often are God's tools to roughly chisel other Christians
- d. May we no longer be tools but vessels to show Christ's love and likeness

6) Some concluding thoughts

- a. Divorce is easy to talk about, but when you really encounter the situation, it's not easy
 - i. In Old Testament, when life is in danger, you can do certain things against the law (self-defense). Why did God put this in the law? To protect people because he loved them.
 1. What would you do about an abusive husband who beats his wife? For a believing couple or non-believing couple?
 - ii. Don't just divorce for any reason – you don't know what the consequences are. You think that a divorce will solve things, but it will not. It has not for many people.
- b. Think carefully before entering into marriage – once you enter in, it's hard to leave