

## **Marriage Divorce and Relationships Part 4**

### **Matthew 1:18-20**

18 Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: when His mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child by the Holy Spirit. 19 And Joseph her husband, being a righteous man and not wanting to disgrace her, planned to send her away secretly. 20 But when he had considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife; for the Child who has been conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit.

### **2 Timothy 3:16-17**

16 All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; 17 so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.

**Galatians 1:10-12.** For am I now seeking the favor of men, or of God? Or am I striving to please men? If I were still trying to please men, I would not be a bond-servant of Christ.

11 For I would have you know, brethren, that the gospel which was preached by me is not according to man. 12 For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it, but I received it through a revelation of Jesus Christ.

**1 Corinthians 4:6.** Now these things, brethren, I have figuratively applied to myself and Apollos for your sakes, so that in us you may learn not to exceed what is written, so that no one of you will become arrogant in behalf of one against the other.

### **Matthew 7:21-23**

21 "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter. 22 Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?' 23 And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness.'

### **1 Corinthians 7:1-40**

1 Now concerning the things about which you wrote, it is good for a man not to touch *(to fasten to, lay hold of, refers to sexual intercourse, cohabitation)* a woman. 2 But because of immoralities, each man is to have his own wife, and each woman is to have her own husband.

3 The husband must fulfill his duty to his wife, and likewise also the wife to her husband. 4 The wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband does; and likewise also the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife does. 5 Stop depriving one another, except by agreement for a time, so that you may devote yourselves to prayer, and come together again so that Satan will not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.

6 But this I say by way of concession not of command. 7 Yet I wish that all men were even as I myself am. However, each man has his own gift from God, one in this manner, and another in that.

8 But I say to the unmarried and to widows that it is good for them if they remain even as I. 9 But if they do not have self-control, let them marry; for it is better to marry than to burn with passion.

10 But to the married I give instructions, not I, but the Lord, that the wife should not leave her husband 11 (but if she does leave, she must remain unmarried, or else be reconciled to her husband), and that the husband should not divorce his wife.

### **Matthew 18:6-7**

6 but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to stumble, it would be better for him to have a heavy millstone hung around his neck, and to be drowned in the depth of the sea.

7 "Woe to the world because of its stumbling blocks! For it is inevitable that stumbling blocks come; but woe to that man through whom the stumbling block comes!

### **1 Corinthians 7:12-40**

12 But to the rest (*the rest being those with unbelieving partners*) I say (*by permission again*), not the Lord, that if any brother has a wife who is an unbeliever, and she consents to live with him, he **MUST NOT** divorce her. 13 And a woman who has an unbelieving husband, and he consents to live with her, she **MUST NOT** send her husband away. 14 For the unbelieving husband is **sanctified** through his wife, and the unbelieving wife is **sanctified** through her believing husband; for otherwise your children are unclean, but now they are holy.

### **1 Peter 3:1-2**

1 In the same way, you wives, be submissive to your own husbands so that even if any of them are disobedient to the word, they may be won without a word by the behavior of their wives, 2 as they observe your chaste and respectful behavior.

.....

7 You husbands in the same way, live with your wives in an understanding way, as with someone weaker, since she is a woman; and show her honor as a fellow heir of the grace of life, so that your prayers will not be hindered.

8 To sum up, all of you be harmonious, sympathetic, brotherly, kindhearted, and humble in spirit; 9 not returning evil for evil or insult for insult, but giving a blessing instead; for you were called for the very purpose that you might inherit a blessing.

### **1 Corinthians 7:15-40**

15 Yet if the unbelieving one leaves, let him leave; the brother or the sister is not under bondage in such cases, but God has called us to peace.

**So the choices are they can either be reconciled (God's preference), or leave and remain unmarried;**

### **1 Corinthians 7:16-40**

16 For how do you know, O wife, whether you will save (*good moral life*) your husband? Or how do you know, O husband, whether you will save your wife?

17 Only, as the Lord has assigned to each one, as God has **CALLED** each, in this manner let him walk. And so I direct in all the churches. 18 Was any man **CALLED** when he was already circumcised? He is not to become uncircumcised. Has anyone been **CALLED** in uncircumcision? He is not to be circumcised. 19 Circumcision is nothing, and uncircumcision is nothing, but what matters is the keeping of the commandments of God. 20 Each man must remain in that condition in which he was **CALLED**.

21 Were you **CALLED** while a slave? Do not worry about it; but if you are able also to become free, rather do that. 22 For he who was **CALLED** in the Lord while a slave, is the Lord's freedman; likewise he who was **CALLED** while free, is Christ's slave. 23 You were bought with a price; do not become slaves of men. 24 Brethren, each one is to remain with God in that condition in which he was **CALLED**.

25 Now concerning virgins I have no command of the Lord, but I give an opinion as one who by the mercy of the Lord is trustworthy. 26 I think then that this is good in view of the present distress, that it is good for a man to remain as he is. 27 Are you bound to a wife? Do not seek to be released. Are you released from a wife? Do not seek a wife. 28 But if you marry, you have not sinned; and if a virgin marries, she has not sinned. **Yet such will have trouble in this life, and I am trying to spare you.**

29 But this I say, brethren, the time has been shortened, so that from now on those who have wives should be as though they had none; 30 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 did not possess; 31 and those who use the world, as though they did not make full use of it; for the form of this world is passing away.

32 But I want you to be **free from concern**. One who is unmarried is concerned about the things of the Lord, how he may please the Lord;

33 but one who is **married is concerned about the things of the world, how he may please his wife**, 34 and his interests are divided. The woman who is unmarried, and the virgin, is concerned about the things of the Lord, that she may be holy both in body and spirit; but one who is **married is concerned about the things of the world, how she may please her husband**. 35 This I say for your own benefit; not to put a restraint upon you, but to promote what is appropriate and to secure **undistracted devotion to the Lord**.

36 But if any man (τις (TIS) - *anyone*) thinks that he is acting unbecomingly toward his virgin ~~daughter~~, if she is past her youth, and if it must be so, let him do what he wishes, he does not sin; let her marry. 37 But he who stands firm in his heart, being under no constraint, but has authority over his own will, and has decided this in his own heart, to keep his own virgin (*virginity*) ~~daughter~~, he will do well. 38 So then both he who gives his own virgin (*virginity*) ~~daughter~~ in marriage does well, and he who does not give her in marriage will do better.

Here are some examples of verse 38 in different translations; to be read in context;

**1 Corinthians 7:38, NIV:** "So then, he who marries the virgin does right, but he who does not marry her does better."

**1 Corinthians 7:38, ESV:** "So then he who marries his betrothed does well, and he who refrains from marriage will do even better."

**1 Corinthians 7:38**, KJV: "So then he that giveth *her* in marriage doeth well; but he that giveth *her* not in marriage doeth better."

**1 Corinthians 7:38**, NASB: "So then both he who gives his own virgin daughter in marriage does well, and he who does not give her in marriage will do better."

**1 Corinthians 7:38**, NLT: "So the person who marries his fiancée does well, and the person who doesn't marry does even better."

**1 Corinthians 7:38**, CSB: "So then he who marries his fiancée does well, but he who does not marry will do better."

So in this section specifically the context is dealing with the fiancé :

#### NET Bible: **1 Corinthians 7:36-38**

"7:36 If anyone thinks he is acting inappropriately toward his virgin, if she is past the bloom of youth and it seems necessary, he should do what he wishes; he does not sin. Let them marry. 7:37 But the man who is firm in his commitment, and is under no necessity but has control over his will, and has decided in his own mind to keep his own virgin, does well. 7:38 So then, the one who marries his own virgin does well, but the one who does not, does better."

Verses 25-40 Paul's is answering a question concerning those who are engaged in Corinth. The question being, 'should those engaged to be married go ahead and get married?'

#### **1 Corinthians 7:39-40**

39 A wife is bound **as long as her husband lives**; but if her husband is dead, she is free to be married to whom she wishes, **only in the Lord**. 40 But in my opinion she is happier if she remains as she is; and I think that I also have the Spirit of God.

**Summary:**

1. a believer is only allowed to divorce when their spouse has committed adultery. However forgiveness and then Reconciliation are the preferred and expected courses of action.
2. When an unbelieving spouse leaves, then the believing spouse is instructed to allow them to leave, if they insist on leaving.
3. A believing spouse may leave, under special circumstances, for example, when the situation is abusive, physically or mentally, but they are to remain unmarried, or to be reconciled with their spouse, again the preferred option.
4. Then of course if anyone dies in the marriage, the surviving spouse is free to remarry but only in The Lord.