

# “If You Do Marry...”

1 Cor. 7:25-28

## Introduction:

- A. Paul deals with marriage for the “present distress”.
  - 1. Marriage discouraged but not forbidden.
  - 2. Marriage preferred over immorality, even under “present distress” (v. 2,9).
  - 3. Marriage to be honored even under “present distress”. (vv. 10-17).
- B. We deal with implications suggested by, “If you do marry...” under two headings:

## Discussion:

### I. **The *Making* of a Marriage.**

- A. Men and women have a right to make a scriptural marriage.
  - 1. Marriage is to be held in honor and not to be doctrinally forbidden. (Heb. 13:5; 1 Tim. 4:3)
  - 2. Marriage is alternative to either celibacy or immorality. (1 Cor. 7:2,9)
- B. Men and women do not have a right to make an unscriptural marriage. (Mark 6:17,18).
  - 1. It may be sanctioned by society, but not by God.
  - 2. It may even be recognized as a marriage in Bible, but an unlawful one.
- C. Men and women do not have a right to marriage unconditionally.
  - 1. One may marry if he/she marries of the opposite sex. (cf. Rom. 1)
  - 2. One may marry if he/she has never been married.
  - 3. One may marry if he/she is a widow(er). (Rom. 7:1-3).
  - 4. One may marry if he/she is innocent and divorces a mate for fornication. (Matt. 19:9).
  - 5. One may marry if he/she marries one who has a right to marry.
- D. Men and women may make inexpedient marriages that may be lawful. (1 Cor. 7:25-40).
  - 1. Cannot say culturally or racial marriages sinful, but unwise.
  - 2. Cannot say religiously mixed marriages sinful, but unwise (cf. 2 Cor. 6:14-17)

### II. **The *Breaking* of a Marriage.**

- A. The basic rule is that marriage can only be broken by death. (Rom. 7:1-3).
- B. The Bible gives one exception to the basic rule - fornication. (Matt. 5:32; Matt. 19:1-9).
  - 1. It gives one the right to divorce, not an obligation.
  - 2. It must be the reason for putting away before one may marry another.
- C. The Bible may give some right to live apart under extreme circumstances, but only have two options -- remain unmarried or be reconciled. (1 Cor. 7:10-17). Note: “under bondage” not same word as used for marriage bond.
- D. The world and even brethren may make many exceptions but not God.

## Conclusion:

- A. “If you do marry...” be careful - make it scriptural and wise.
- B. “If you do marry...” marry a faithful Christian.
- C. “If you do marry...” honor it for life.