

If You Marry

1 Cor. 7:25-28

Introduction:

- A. Paul deals with marriage under extra- ordinary circumstances -- “present distress”.
 - 1. Discourages, but does not forbid marriage.
 - 2. Marriage preferred over immorality, even under “present distress” (v. 2,9).
- B. One is given only three options under any circumstances.
 - 1. Married
 - 2. Unmarried (Celibate)
 - 3. Immorality.
- C. Our subject is suggested by verse 28 — “If thou marry”

Discussion:

I. If You Marry – Marry *Lawfully*.

- A. Lawful according to law of God.
 - 1. Marriage is a covenant (cf. Mal. 2:14)
 - a. A covenant must be confirmed (publicly ratified) (Gal. 3:15)
 - b. In our society it is ratified by civil authority– if resist we resist God’s ordinance(Rom. 13:1-2)
 - c. It is not a private or mental act only before God – would throw institution into chaos.
 - 2. Divorce nullifies the covenant – not a mental or private act.
- B. There are unlawful marriages according to God’s law (Mark 6:17,18).
 - 1. They are recognized as marriages in Bible, but unlawful/adulterous ones.
 - 2. It may be sanctioned by society and state, but not by God.
- C. There are clear instructions as who may marry lawfully.
 - 1. One may marry if he/she has never been married.
 - 2. One may marry if he/she has been widowed (Rom. 7:1-3).
 - 3. One may marry if he/she is innocent and divorces a mate for fornication. (Matt. 19:9).
 - 4. One may marry if he/she marries of the opposite sex. (cf. Rom. 1:26-27)
 - 5. One may marry if he/she marries one who has a right to marry.

II. If You Marry – Marry *Wisely*.

- A. Not every lawful thing is wise. (1 Cor 10:23; cf. Chapter 9)
- B. Marriage can be difficult under best circumstances (cf. “Confused state of affairs”).
- C. A marriage may be lawful, but inexpedient (1 Cor. 7:25-40).
 - 1. Culturally mixed marriages – may be some exceptions.
 - 2. Religiously mixed marriages (cf. 2 Cor. 6:14-17).
- D. Results of unwise marriages are serious.
 - 1. A life with much “trouble in the flesh” (1 Cor. 7:28).
 - 2. Or, a broken marriage with all of its problems.

III. If You Marry – Marry *Permanently*.

- A. The basic rule is marriage for life. (Rom. 7:1-3; Matt. 19:3-8).
- B. One exception to that rule. (Matt. 5:32; Matt. 19:9).
 - 1. It gives one the right to divorce, not an obligation.
 - 2. It must the reason for putting away before – not an after thought.
- C. Extreme circumstances may force some to live apart – but not divorce. (1 Cor. 7:10-17).
 - 1. If do divorce only two choices – remain unmarried or be reconciled.
 - 2. “Not under bondage” is not equal to “free to remarry”.

Conclusion:

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