

Our Life Calling

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I Corinthians 7:17-40 ¹⁷Regardless, each one should lead the life that the Lord has assigned to him and to which God has called him. This is what I prescribe in all the churches. ¹⁸Was a man already circumcised when he was called? He should not become uncircumcised. Was a man still uncircumcised when called? He should not be circumcised. ¹⁹Circumcision is nothing and uncircumcision is nothing. Keeping God's commandments is what counts. ²⁰Each one should remain in the situation he was in when he was called. ²¹Were you a slave when you were called? Do not let it concern you—but if you can gain your freedom, take the opportunity. ²²For he who was a slave when he was called by the Lord is the Lord's freedman. Conversely, he who was a free man when he was called is Christ's slave. ²³You were bought at a price; do not become slaves of men. ²⁴Brothers, each one should remain in the situation he was in when God called him. ²⁵Now about virgins, I have no command from the Lord, but I give a judgment as one who by the Lord's mercy is trustworthy. ²⁶Because of the present crisis, I think it is good for a man to remain as he is. ²⁷Are you committed to a wife? Do not seek to be released. Are you free of commitment? Do not look for a wife. ²⁸But if you do marry, you have not sinned. And if a virgin marries, she has not sinned. But those who marry will face troubles in this life, and I want to spare you this. ²⁹What I am saying, brothers, is that the time is short. From now on those who have wives should live as if they had none; ³⁰those who weep, as if they did not; those who are joyful, as if they were not; those who make a purchase, as if they had nothing; ³¹and those who use the things of this world, as if not dependent on them. For this world in its present form is passing away. ³²I want you to be free from concern. The unmarried man is concerned about the work of the Lord, how he can please the Lord. ³³But the married man is concerned about the affairs of this world, how he can please his wife, ³⁴and his interests are divided. The unmarried woman or virgin is concerned about the work of the Lord, how she can be holy in both body and spirit. But the married woman is concerned about the affairs of this world, how she can please her husband. ³⁵I am saying this for your own good, not to restrict you, but in order to promote proper decorum and undivided devotion to the Lord. ³⁶However, if someone thinks he is acting inappropriately toward his betrothed, and if she is beyond her youth and they ought to marry, let him do as he wishes; he is not sinning; they should get married. ³⁷But the man who is firmly established in his heart and under no constraint, with control over his will and resolve in his heart not to marry the virgin, he will do well. ³⁸So then, he who marries the virgin does well, but he who does not marry her does even better. ³⁹A wife is bound to her husband as long as he lives. But if her husband dies, she is free to marry anyone she wishes, as long as he belongs to the Lord. ⁴⁰In my judgment, however, she is happier if she remains as she is. And I think that I too have the Spirit of God.

I. What can we learn from this passage?

- A.** We must not constantly seek to upgrade our situation but to **maximize** our effectiveness in preaching the gospel to those within our realm of influence. V. 17-24
- B.** There are some **vital** truths concerning the issue of slavery. V. 21-23
 - 1.** The **Bible** does not promote slavery. V. 21, 23
 - 2.** Slavery was a system of **restoration**. The system of slavery in America was forbidden. **Exodus 21:16** Whoever kidnaps another man must be put to death, whether he sells him or the man is found in his possession. BSB

- C. Singleness is just as much an option as being married for a believer. V. 26, 35,37,39
 - D. We must do everything in our power to have strong, lasting, and holy marriages.
V. 27-28, 39
- II. How can we apply these truths to our life?
- A. Let's take an inventory of our commitments.
 - 1. What is your current marriage situation?
 - 2. What is God trying to tell you about things that you need to work on?
 - 3. What is your current employment situation?
 - 4. What is your attitude toward your daily tasks?
 - B. We must defend our faith from the attacks that are going on around us toward Christianity.
 - 1. Can you defend your faith against the lies regarding: slavery, treatment of women, treatment of children, treatment of minorities, treatment of non-believers, etc.?
 - 2. We must be aware of the culture war going on around us. We must know and acknowledge that some Christians have sinned in their treatment of others. We must seek to treat others as Christ did without siding with those who would destroy us.