

Marriage, Part Two

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1Corinthians 7:25-40

“But the married man is anxious about worldly things, how to please his wife, and his interests are divided. And the unmarried or betrothed woman is anxious about the things of the Lord, how to be holy in body and spirit. But the married woman is anxious about worldly things, how to please her husband.” (1 Corinthians 7:33-34, ESV)

Introduction

The Apostle Paul draws a connection between the marriage covenant—“the two shall become one flesh”—and the relationship between Christ and His church (Ephesians 5:31-32). In a book called Sacred Marriage (*Zondervan 2000*) writer Gary L. Thomas poses these questions, “What if God’s primary intent for your marriage isn’t to make you happy, but holy?” and “What if your relationship isn’t as much about you and your spouse as it is about you and God?” However, to remain single or to be married is your choice.

1. Marriage, the now and the not yet. (1Corinthians 7:25-31)

a) Getting married or staying single is one of our biggest decisions.

b) But we should remain aware of this world’s passing away as we make our decisions.

2. Marriage is a spiritual discipline, not an excuse. (1Corinthians 7:32-35)

a) An unmarried person can focus solely on worshiping and serving the Lord.

b) A married person must care for his wife, children and family while worshiping the Lord.

3. Marriage is for a lifetime, worship is for all eternity. (1Corinthians 7:36-40)

a) Getting married is not a sin, but it is meant to be a lifetime commitment.

b) Nor is marrying because of passion sin, yet one who refrains from marriage does better.

For our prayerful study, discussion and application:

1) Read 1Co7:25-31. Why does Paul say that it is good for a person to remain unmarried?

2) Read 1Co7:32-35. What kind of struggle does Paul say married people face?

3) What do you think about Paul’s judgment of “well” and “even better” in 1Co7:36-40?

Conclusion:

God commands us to love Him with all of our heart, mind, soul and strength, and yet He has blessed us with the covenant and privilege of marriage and given us the choice.

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