

“To the Unmarried and the Married” I Corinthians 7: 8-16

To the Unmarried (vss. 8-9)... Paul sees the advantages of remaining single as he is. However, singleness is not the gift of everyone and our passage instructs Christians to seek a spouse if they “cannot exercise self-control” or if they “burn with passion.”

To the Married (vss. 10-16)... In verses 10-11, Paul reiterates the commandment of Jesus that married believers must not divorce (Matthew 5:32 & 19:9, Mark 10:11-12, and Luke 16:18). Paul’s basic principle is the protection and preservation of marriages within the Christian Community even though he does allow for some exceptions. We also see in verses 12-16 that Christians who are married to unbelievers should remain faithful to their marriages because the unbelieving spouse is influenced by the Christian spouse and is more likely to be saved through this influence.

Questions for Discussion:

1. Is the church in America open to singleness? Why? Why not?
2. In our passage, what is more strictly forbidden: unlawful divorce or unlawful remarriage?
3. What examples of faithfulness in marriage have you seen? How did they impact you?
4. How can a Christian married to an unbeliever best encourage his/her spouse to believe in Jesus?