

“Bloom Where You Are Planted”

I Corinthians 7: 17-24

Staying Circumcised & Uncircumcised (7:17-19)...

Many in Corinth were eager to make changes to the outward circumstances of their lives because they believed these changes would make them more spiritual. Paul refuted this mistaken notion and instead as a general rule encouraged Christians to remain in the situations that they were already in when God called them to believe in Jesus. Paul previously stated that married Christians should stay married. Now, he gives two more scenarios where Christians should remain as they are. The first of these is in regard to circumcision. Even though circumcision had been a very important symbol of belonging to God in the Old Testament, Paul is now going to say that being circumcised or uncircumcised is completely irrelevant to our spiritual lives.

Staying a Slave & Free (7:20-24)... Paul also said to those who were slaves, “Do not be concerned about it.” Paul was in no way endorsing the institution of slavery; rather his point was that being a Christian does not necessitate gaining one’s freedom from slavery. The slave’s low status in human terms mattered little in light of his spiritual status in Christ – “a freedman of the Lord.” Jesus had freed the slave from bondage to sin and condemnation. On the flip side, Paul taught that the free man should not become a slave because he has been bought with the blood of Jesus and is a slave to Christ.

***Questions for Discussion:**

1. How have you wrongly believed that a change of circumstances would somehow make you a more spiritual person?
2. Why is human status ultimately irrelevant in God’s eyes? How should this truth impact the church?
3. How has God used your unique circumstances as an opportunity for serving Him?