

1 Corinthians 7 Life Groups Notes

Read 1 Corinthians 7.

1. Why is Chapter 7:1 so significant in structure of 1 Corinthians? (see also 8:1; 12:1; 16:1; 16:12)
2. If you could send Paul a question on the subject of relationships, what might it be? (*this is a serious question, though I anticipate some tongue in cheek answers!!*).
3. From Paul's response (chapter 7), can you detect the questions that he was asked initially? (*this will require some detective work by reading the passage carefully*). Would these be the questions that would be asked by Christians today?
4. Sex is spoken about in the secular world with frequency, but seldom in the church. Do you think that Christians need to reclaim this all so important subject?
5. What, in your opinion, makes a good marriage?
6. Why does Paul state that he has/does not have commands from the Lord? (see v10, 12, 25).
7. What does Paul say about divorce and remarriage (v10-16)? What did Jesus say on this subject? (see Matt. 5:31,32; 19:3-12). [See 19:3: 'for any reason' was the key point on Deut. 24:1-4. There were two schools of thought, one that followed Rabbi Shammai (ultra conservative) and the other Rabbi Hillel (liberal). Jesus showed that he was in the Rabbi Shammai group.] Jesus emphasised God's ideal, but also acknowledged that Moses had made a concession due to the hardness of men's hearts. Is it feasible to hold both God's ideal for marriage strongly and also recognise that there are concessions due to us living in a fallen and broken world? What might those concessions be? [please be sensitive when talking about these issues as these are very real issues for some fellow Christians].
8. Why should we feel a measure of sympathy for the unsaved marriage partners of someone who has become a Christian?
9. What do v14-16 mean? Read in NIV then in NLT. Why are v17-24 important to Christians in Corinth and Christians today? What is Paul warning against?
10. Paul seems to prefer Christians being unmarried (v8, 26, 28, 39-40) but why? (*think of the specific historical context of these words, and also the more general reasons that would apply*)
11. Why do many people view being single as second best? Is this prevalent in society? What would Paul say to this view?
12. What important emphasis does Paul make to those who wish to be married in v39? Is this relevant today?