### 1 Corinthians

## Chapter 7

1Now, concerning those things that you wrote to me about [when you said]:  
  
 ‘It’s best for a husband to not touch [his] wife.’  
  
2However, [I say,] because of all the immorality, each man should be allowed to have his own wife and each woman her own husband. 3Then every man should give his wife what she’s due, and every woman should do the same for her husband.  
  
4Wives don’t have authority over their own bodies, their husbands do, and men don’t have authority over their own bodies, their wives do. 5So you shouldn’t deprive each other, except for set periods that you may agree on to devote time to prayer… Then you may come together again. No – don’t allow the Opposer to tempt you by your lack of self control.  
  
6However, this is just my opinion, not a command.  
  
7I wish that all of you were just like me! However, everyone has his own gift from God, and each in a different way. 8So I’m telling unmarried people and widows that it’s best for them to be like me. 9But if they don’t have self-control, let them marry, because it’s better to marry than to burn with passion.  
  
10To married people I give this warning (not really me, but the Lord):  
  
A woman shouldn’t leave her husband.  
  
11But if she does, she must either remain unmarried or make up with him… And the men shouldn’t leave their wives.  
  
12To the rest I say this (yes me, not the Lord):  
  
If any brother has an unbelieving wife that agrees to live with him, he should never leave her. 13And if a woman has an unbelieving husband that agrees to live with her, she shouldn’t leave him, 14because the woman makes [her] unbelieving husband holy, and the brother makes [his] unbelieving wife holy. Otherwise, their children would be unclean… But now they’re holy.  
  
15However, if the unbelieving one wants to leave, let him go, because a brother or a sister isn’t a slave to such matters, since God has called us to peace.  
  
16But woman:  
  
How do you know that you won’t save your husband?  
  
Man:  
  
How do you know that you won’t save your wife?  
  
17Except, go on in the same way that God gave to you when Jehovah called you. That’s the command I give in all the congregations.  
  
  
18Has a circumcised man been called? Then he shouldn’t act like someone who’s uncircumcised.  
  
Has an uncircumcised man been called? Then he shouldn’t be circumcised.  
  
19For being circumcised doesn’t mean anything, and being uncircumcised doesn’t mean anything either – [what’s important] is obeying God’s commandments! 20So it doesn’t matter what state you were in when you were called… Just stay that way!  
  
21Were you called when you were a slave?  
  
Don’t let that bother you… But if you can become free, seize the opportunity, 22because anyone in the Lord who was called [when he was] a slave has already become a free man in the Lord.  
  
And anyone who was free when he was called has become a slave of the Anointed One. 23So, since you’ve already been bought and paid for, stop becoming slaves to men!  
  
24Therefore, brothers, it doesn’t matter what condition each [of you] were in when you were called… Just stay that way, living to God.  
  
25Now, when it comes to virgins, I don’t have any commands from the Lord. However, I’ll give you my own opinion (as one who by the Lord’s mercy, has been faithful):  
  
26I think that it’s best for anyone who’s had a reason to stay one way, to continue as he [or she] is. 27[For example], are you tied to a wife? Stop trying to get free! Are you free from a wife? Stop searching for a wife! 28However, even if you marry, you aren’t sinning. And if a virgin marries, she hasn’t sinned.  
  
Remember that those who [marry] will have fleshly problems, and I’m just trying to save you [from this].  
  
29Let me say this, brothers… The season has been shortened! Therefore:  
  
 Let those who have women act as though they have none;  
 30Let those who are crying act like those who don’t cry;  
 Let those who are rejoicing act like those who don’t rejoice;  
 Let those who are buying act like those who own nothing;  
 31And let those who are using this system of things act like those who don’t use it…  
 Because the ways of this world are about to change.  
  
32[You see], I don’t want you to worry about anything. A single man worries about the things of the Lord and winning His approval, 33while a married man worries about worldly things and winning his woman’s approval… So he’s divided.  
  
34Also, single women and virgins just worry about the things of the Lord… About how they can be holy in their bodies and the type of people who they are on the inside. However, a married woman must worry about worldly things and winning the approval of her man.  
  
35Now, I’m just describing the best situation… I’m not trying to ‘hang’ you, I’m just trying to move you to do things that work out well and sit well with the Lord, and which won’t distract you.  
  
36But if anyone thinks his virginity isn’t working out and he’s past the bloom of youth, this is what should happen:  
  
Allow him to do whatever he wishes, for he isn’t sinning if he marries! 37However, if someone is settled in heart, doesn’t have any [sexual] needs, has self-control, and has decided in his heart to keep his virginity, he’ll do better.  
  
38Yes, although the one who gives up his [or her] virginity and marries does well, the one who doesn’t marry does better. 39For a woman is tied down as long as her man’s alive. But if her man falls asleep [in death], she can marry whomever she wants (but only in the Lord).  
  
40However, in my opinion she’ll be happier if she stays [single]… And I consider myself as having God’s Spirit.