

***Uncle Kirby Says:
Good Morning
and
Welcome to Genesis the Church!***



***Let's Begin by Dismissing Our Kids to Their
Kid's Quest Areas of Ministry!***



Text:

1 Corinthians 7:1-9!

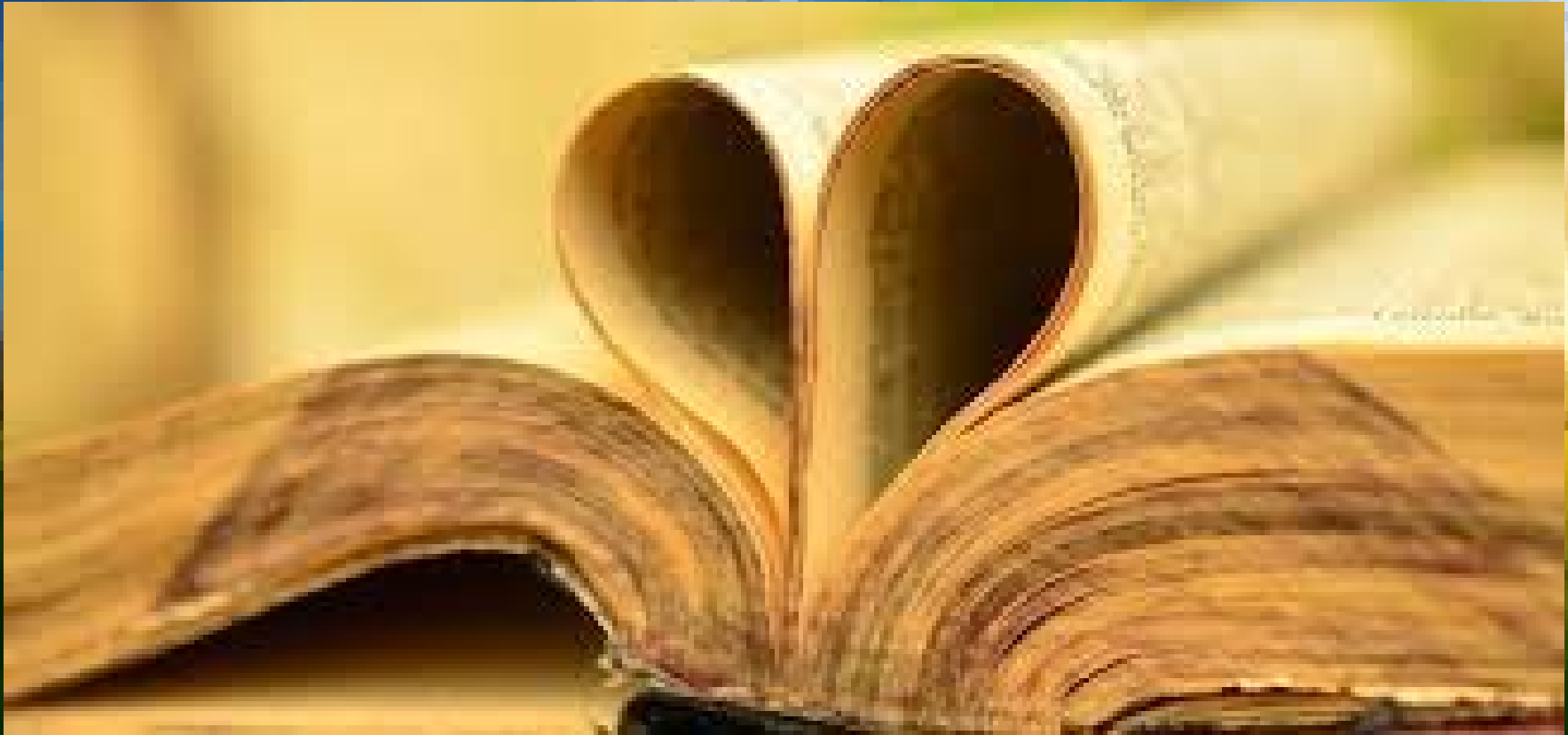
Title:

Married: To Be or Not To Be?

Theme:

***The Sin of Self-Centeredness Brings
Shame Upon the Name of Jesus!***

The Scriptures:
1 Corinthians 7:1-9!



*This morning we begin the **third major section** in Paul's letter to the believers located in the city of Corinth. And in this section Paul's purpose will not change.*

His goal is twofold:

- 1.) To help believers **evaluate their hearts** before God – Who do I love?*
- 2.) To help believers **adjust their walk** before men – Is my love for Christ seen?*

Overview of Our Journey:

- I. (Chaps.1-4) The *Division* taking place in the Church at Corinth!

- II. (Chaps.5-6) The *Disorders* taking place in the Church!

III. (Chaps.7-14) The **Discussions** taking place in the Church!

A. (Chap.7) Married: To Be or Not To Be?



B. (Chap.8) Food: Can I Eat Meat Offered to Foreign Gods?



C. (Chap.9) Support: Who Pays the Pastor?



D. (Chap.10) Worship: Is It Wrong to Participate in Pagan Worship?



E. (Chap.11) Head Coverings: Should Women Cover Their Heads to Show Submission?



F. (Chaps.12-14) Spiritual Gifts: Are They Given to Draw Attention to God or to Self?



This Morning:

III. (Chaps.7-14) The Discussions taking place in the Church!

And these discussions will begin in chapter seven with a detailed an in-depth seminar on the topic of marriage!

Question: To Be or Not To Be?

An Overview of Chapter Seven!

I. (7:1-40) Married: To Be or Not To Be?

A. (7:1-9) Paul's COMMENTS:

Should I get married or should I remain single?

B. (7:10-24) Paul's COMMAND:

If married remain married. Don't seek divorce!

C. (7:25-38) Paul's CAUTION:

Marriage will hinder your ability to serve God!

D. (7:39-40) Paul's COUNSEL:

Paul's wisdom on the question: "Should I marry or remain single!"

Our Journey Continues: I Corinthians 7:1-9! MARRIED: To Be or Not To Be?

I. (7:1) Celibacy is a GOOD thing!

A. Because of the coming CONFLICT (v.26):

1. Paul wrote I Corinthians in 55AD. Upon his arriving in Corinth he met two Jews, Aquila and Priscilla. They were in Corinth as a result of the persecution of Jews in Rome.
2. In 67AD Paul will write his final letter to Timothy from a Roman jail. In the few short years between these letters, Roman persecution had spread from the city of Rome, throughout the Roman world.



I. (7:1) Celibacy is a **GOOD** thing!

B. Because of the **CIRCUMSTANCES** in Corinth:

Note: Paul begins this new section with the words “**Now concerning the things about which you wrote.**” It is here that Paul responds to **Chloe’s letter** (cf. 1:11). In Paul’s day marriage, just like today, was thought to be an honorable estate and acceptable to all. Not because it was established by God, but rather because it was man’s way to distinguish between legal offspring (inherit wealth / family name) and illegal offspring (burden / rejected). As a result of all the sexual activity (in the temple) and perversion taking place throughout the streets, **divorce and remarriage became the norm of the day.**



I. (7:1) Celibacy is a **GOOD** thing!

B. Because of the **CIRCUMSTANCES** in Corinth:

Here Paul builds on his earlier teaching:

Last Week: Paul laid the foundation for the believer's liberty in Christ – All things are lawful for me, but not all things are profitable. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be mastered by anything (Context: The desires of the flesh).

This Morning: Paul will build on the freedom or liberty the believer has in Christ. Here Paul sets before us his choice to remain single so that (purpose) he might better serve the Lord. Because of the circumstances celibacy is the wise choice!



II. (7:2-5) Celibacy is not a **Gimmick!**

Note:

Abstaining from marriage does not prove a person is more spiritual than someone who chooses to marry.

In I Corinthians 8:5 Paul will point out that the other apostles, even Peter, were married and traveled with their wives.



II. (7:2-5) Celibacy is not a **Gimmick!**

While it is true that a “single person” will have more liberty or freedom in choosing where, or when, or how to serve than a “married person” will, such choices only offer more opportunity to serve. They do not assume success in serving.

The desire to satisfy the lustful desires of the flesh can, and often do, over shadow our love for the Lord whether single or married.

II. (7:2-5) Celibacy is not a **Gimmick!**

We as believers must never forget that marriage is a gift from God!

Genesis 2:24 and Matthew 19:4-6:

Have you not read that He who created them from the beginning made them male and female, and said, for this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife and the two shall become one flesh? So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let no man separate (Gen.2:23).

(Chuck Swindoll: In Hollywood California)

II. (7:2-5) Celibacy is not a **Gimmick!**

- A. (v.2a) The **SIN** of immorality: **Pornea / Pornography.**
- B. (v.2b) The **SOLUTION** to the sin problem: **Get Married.**
- C. (vs.3-4) The **SURRENDERING** of self: **Seek Love.**
- D. (v.5) The **STRONG** warning: **Stop Depriving / Spouse.**

Q: Is there ever a time to deprive each other of sex?

A: Yes! When our focus needs to be on God!

Q: Why is it important to come together again?

A: So that Satan doesn't have opportunity to tempt you!

III. (7:6-9) Celibacy is a **GIFT!**

In these verses Paul builds on the advice given in verse two. His point is simple – please make sure of your choice to remain celibate because being single isn't for everyone. You must be careful not to destroy your testimony for God before the unsaved in your eagerness to serve. Think before choosing!



III. (7:6-9) Celibacy is a **GIFT!**

A. (vs.6-7) Paul's **CONCESSION:** **Here Paul reveals his pastor's heart!**

1. (vs.6-7a) **Paul's Passion** – While it is my strong desire for you to remain single, what I have said is not commanded by the Lord.
2. (v.7b) **Paul's Point** – This is because God has chosen some for celibacy and others for marriage. The final decision is yours to make before God!

III. (7:6-9) Celibacy is a **GIFT!**

B. (v.8) Paul's **COUNSELING:**

Because hard times lay ahead, my advice to you is to remain unmarried and to find contentment in your present circumstances.

Hebrews 13:5

Make sure of your character *by* being content with what you have; For He Himself has said, “I will never forsake you!”



III. (7:6-9) Celibacy is a **GIFT!**

C. (v.9) Paul's **CONCLUSION:**

Be careful when making your decision so that you will not allow sin to overtake and destroy your testimony for Christ. It is my desire and advice that you remain single. But it is not God's command. God has given you the gift of marriage because He knows that it is better to face the coming difficult times with someone you love, than to face the lust that burns within you while alone.



This Week: I Corinthians 7:1-9!

Our focus was on Paul's COMMENTS about celibacy. In these verses he encouraged us to remain single because of the difficult times that are about to come (remember your testimony).

Next Week: I Corinthians 7:10-24!

Our focus will be on the Lord's COMMAND to those who have chosen to marry.

To the married he will say, “getting divorced is not an option” (testimony).

