

Outline of 1 Corinthians

- I. Greetings (1:1–3)
- II. Thanksgiving (1:4–9)
- III. Addressing the problem of factions (1:10–4:21)
- IV. Addressing problems of morality (5:1–6:20)
- V. **Answers to questions concerning marriage (7:1–40)**
- VI. The proper use of liberties (8:1–11:1)
- VII. Addressing problems relating to worship (11:2–14:40)
- VIII. The resurrection (15:1–58)
- IX. Instruction regarding the collection for the poor saints in Jerusalem, including Paul's planned visit (16:1–9)
- X. Concluding remarks (16:10–24)

(Based on Outline in 1 Corinthians, a Study by Mike Willis, 1996, p.vii)



Memory Trip

- Chapter 1
 - DIVISION
- Chapter 2
 - FAITH IN THE WISDOM OF GOD
- Chapter 3
 - WORKING TOGETHER ON ONE FOUNDATION
- Chapter 4
 - AUTHORITY OF THE APOSTLES
- Chapter 5
 - THE RIGHT ACTION TOWARD AN IMPENITENT BROTHER
- Chapter 6
 - ADDRESSING LAWSUITS AND THE SIN OF FORNICATION



- True or False: The word “depart” in 7:10 is talking about divorce.
 - True. It is the same word as Matthew 19:6 – separate, put asunder

- ▶ Not taking into account the exception of divorcing a spouse for fornication, when a man divorces his wife or a woman divorces her husband, is she then unmarried? Is she bound?
 - Yes, 1 Corinthians 7:10.
 - Yes, Romans 7:1–3; 1 Corinthians 7:39

- ▶ Is a marriage between a believer and unbeliever (assuming their right to be married) honorable and ok before God?
 - Yes, verse 14. Hebrews 13:4



- True or False: It's wrong for a woman to divorce her husband (we're not considering the exception of fornication here).
 - True. v.10
- True or False: It's wrong for a man to divorce his wife (we're not considering the exception of fornication here).
 - True. v.11
- ▶ Should the believer divorce an unbelieving spouse (we're not considering the exception of fornication here).
 - No. Vss. 12-13
- ▶ True or False: (Again, we're not considering the exception of fornication here.) If the unbeliever divorces his believing spouse, the believing spouse may remarry.
 - False. Vs.15 gives no such authority. Matthew 5:32, 19:9; Luke 16:16 forbid it.



1 Corinthians 7:10-16

“^{10} Now to the married I command, yet not I but the Lord: A wife is not to depart from her husband. ^{11} But even if she does depart, let her remain unmarried or be reconciled to her husband. And a husband is not to divorce his wife. ^{12} But to the rest I, not the Lord, say: If any brother has a wife who does not believe, and she is willing to live with him, let him not divorce her. ^{13} And a woman who has a husband who does not believe, if he is willing to live with her, let her not divorce him. ^{14} For the unbelieving husband is sanctified by the wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified by the husband; otherwise your children would be unclean, but now they are holy. ^{15} But if the unbeliever departs, let him depart; a brother or a sister is not under bondage in such cases. But God has called us to peace. ^{16} For how do you know, O wife, whether you will save your husband? Or how do you know, O husband, whether you will save your wife?”



1 Corinthians 7:17-24

“But as God has distributed to each one, as the Lord has called each one, so let him walk. And so I ordain in all the churches. {18} Was anyone called while circumcised? Let him not become uncircumcised. Was anyone called while uncircumcised? Let him not be circumcised. {19} Circumcision is nothing and uncircumcision is nothing, but keeping the commandments of God is what matters. {20} Let each one remain in the same calling in which he was called. {21} Were you called while a slave? Do not be concerned about it; but if you can be made free, rather use it. {22} For he who is called in the Lord while a slave is the Lord’s freedman. Likewise he who is called while free is Christ’s slave. {23} You were bought at a price; do not become slaves of men. {24} Brethren, let each one remain with God in that state in which he was called.”



1 Corinthians 7:25–28

“Now concerning virgins: I have no commandment from the Lord; yet I give judgment as one whom the Lord in His mercy has made trustworthy. {26} I suppose therefore that this is good because of the present distress—that it is good for a man to remain as he is: {27} Are you bound to a wife? Do not seek to be loosed. Are you loosed from a wife? Do not seek a wife. {28} But even if you do marry, you have not sinned; and if a virgin marries, she has not sinned. Nevertheless such will have trouble in the flesh, but I would spare you.”



1 Corinthians 7:29–38

“But this I say, brethren, the time is short, so that from now on even those who have wives should be as though they had none, {30} those who weep as though they did not weep, those who rejoice as though they did not rejoice, those who buy as though they did not possess, {31} and those who use this world as not misusing it. For the form of this world is passing away. {32} But I want you to be without care. He who is unmarried cares for the things of the Lord—how he may please the Lord. {33} But he who is married cares about the things of the world—how he may please his wife. {34} There is a difference between a wife and a virgin. The unmarried woman cares about the things of the Lord, that she may be holy both in body and in spirit. But she who is married cares about the things of the world—how she may please her husband. {35} And this I say for your own profit, not that I may put a leash on you, but for what is proper, and that you may serve the Lord without distraction. {36} But if any man thinks he is behaving improperly toward his virgin, if she is past the flower of youth, and thus it must be, let him do what he wishes. He does not sin; let them marry. {37} Nevertheless he who stands steadfast in his heart, having no necessity, but has power over his own will, and has so determined in his heart that he will keep his virgin, does well. {38} So then he who gives her in marriage does well, but he who does not give her in marriage does better.”



Take Aways

- A purpose of marriage is to avoid fornication
- Instruction to the married could be summed up as: don't divorce
- The exception of fornication is not under consideration in the questions Paul is answering
- No new exception for divorce is given
- Instruction to virgins needs to be taken in its context of the present distress and not as some general rule

