

## WALK THE TALK //////////////////////////////////////

*This page is designed for you to apply what you have learned from the Scriptures. Our goal is not just “to know” but to “act upon what we know.” (His Word, Our Walk!) We encourage you to discuss the following questions with family, friends and your group.*



### FOR DISCUSSION:

1. Read through chapter 7 completely. What are your general thoughts on the chapter? How do you see this as different than Paul's other letters?
2. What did you learn about the Corinthian culture?
3. What did you learn about the Corinthian church?
4. What did you learn about chapter 7 that you didn't know or understand before?
5. What would you like to learn or apply as we study this chapter?

### MEMORY VERSE FOR THIS SERIES

*1Cor. 7:17 Nevertheless, each person should live as a believer in whatever situation the Lord has assigned to them, just as God has called them. This is the rule I lay down in all the churches.*



July 14 & 15, 2018 | Married or Single #1 | 1Corinthians 7 | Dennis Miller, pastor

### TWO THOUGHTS FOR THIS SERIES:

1. Whether married or single, be committed to IMPROVING yourself and your RELATIONSHIPS.
2. Whether married or single, be CONTENT.

*1Cor. 7:17 Nevertheless, each person should live as a believer in whatever situation the Lord has assigned to them, just as God has called them. . . .*

### IN COMING TO THIS PASSAGE, PLEASE NOTE THAT . . .

*1Cor. 7:1 Now for the matters you wrote about: . . .*

1. A casual reading of chapters 7 through 11 can be very CONFUSING and frustrating. Our church and culture is much DIFFERENT than of the Corinthians. *(This is true of all Scripture but it seems particularly so in this part of the letter.)*
2. Understand that Paul is responding to QUESTIONS that had been addressed in a LETTER to him. The questions concerned the following (somewhat) unusual topics:
  - a. Marriage, SINGLENES and sexuality.
  - b. Eating FOOD that had been sacrificed to IDOLS.
  - c. The “RIGHTS” of believers and Christian leaders.
  - d. Learning from the MISTAKES of others.
  - e. Participating in “idol FEASTS”.

- f. The LIMITS of Christian freedom.
- g. The purposes of HEAD COVERINGS.
- h. How to properly CELEBRATE Holy Communion.

3. Translation of these chapters is DIFFICULT as we don't know exactly what was said in the Corinthian's LETTER.

*1Cor. 7:1 Now for the matters you wrote about: It is good for a man not to marry. (NIV1984)*

*1Cor. 7:1 Now for the matters you wrote about: "It is good for a man not to have sexual relations with a woman." (NIV2011)*

### THE LITERARY CONTEXT

1. Chapter 7 begins the SECOND section of 1 Corinthians and the tone of the book changes from combative to GRACIOUS.

2. Paul writes DIFFERENTLY in this section than in ANY of his other writings. He shares his views and thoughts as guidelines. (Verses 6, 8, 25, 26, 40)

*1Cor. 7:10 To the married I give this command (not I, but the Lord): A wife must not separate from her husband.*

*1Cor. 7:12 To the rest I say this (I, not the Lord): . . .*

3. Paul's discussion of marriage and singleness alternates between MEN and WOMEN 12 times, and in each case, the genders are EQUAL.

### THE CONTEXT OF THE CHURCH

1. The Christian Jews were saying that everyone MUST be married. *"If you're not married, you WON'T go to heaven!"*

2. The Greeks were teaching that a person who wants to be truly CLOSE to God should remain or become SINGLE and devote themselves totally to God. Celibacy had become somewhat of a fad or a "show of TRUE faithfulness".

### THE CONTEXT OF THE SOCIETY

- 1. Sexual immorality was RAMPANT and DIVORCE common.
- 2. Persecution of Christians was beginning and was about to become INTENSE.

*1Cor. 7:29 What I mean, brothers and sisters, is that the time is short. . . .*

3. Marriage laws and customs were DIFFERENT depending on your station in life. You could be married in the following ways:

a. TRADITIONAL marriage — Usually wealthier people were able to hold a WEDDING celebration. *(Many of our wedding traditions today come from the early Roman empire.)*

b. Common law — If a couple lived together for ONE YEAR, they were considered married.

c. A father SELLING his daughter — This could happen when a woman was sought after and her father needed RESOURCES. There was little LOVE involved.

d. Slave assignment — A slave OWNER could determine that two of his slaves should cohabitate and produce CHILDREN. He could also then sell one or both of them and they would start over as SINGLES elsewhere.

*Eccl. 2:7 I bought male and female slaves and had other slaves who were born in my house. I also owned more herds and flocks than anyone in Jerusalem before me.*

### THE BREAKDOWN OF CHAPTER 7

- 1. vv. 1-7 — To the married: STAY married and enjoy the INTIMACY that God has designed for you.
- 2. vv. 8-9 — To the divorced and WIDOWS: it is good to remain unmarried, but you also have the right to RE-MARRY.
- 3. vv. 10-16 — To the married, when one partner is an UNBELIEVER: stay married if POSSIBLE.
- 4. vv. 17-24 — To EVERYONE: learn to be CONTENT where God has placed you NOW.
- 5. vv. 25-40 — To the UNMARRIED: it is GOOD to remain unmarried, but it is also GOOD to marry.

### APPLICATION

- 1. Work to ENHANCE your relationships now before they become PROBLEMS that you can't resolve.
- 2. If you have questions, list them on your eCard and I will respond to them by video each week.