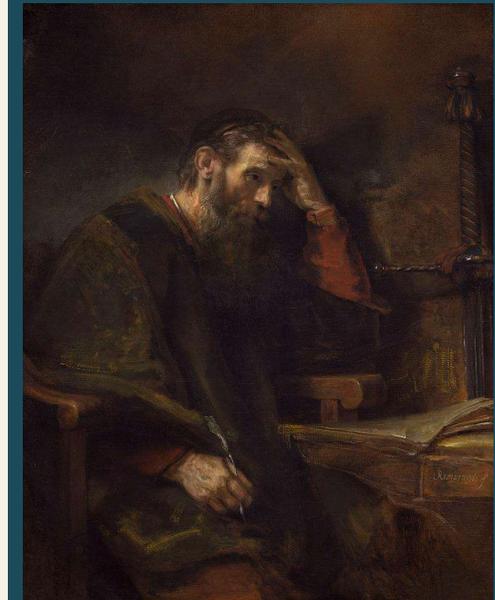


# What does God's purposes for marriage look like?



1 Cor 7:1-16



## Previous context



*Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple, and that God's Spirit lives in you?*

*It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you- you, and of a kind that does not occur even among pagans: A man has his father's wife.*

*Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God? Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. And that is what some of you were.*

*You are not your own. You were bought with a price. Therefore honor God with your body.*

1 Cor 5:1

1 Cor 6:9-11

## *Biblical Marriage Foundations*



- 1. Designed by God  
Heterosexual*
- 2. Is a stewardship of His calling  
Creation  
Fruitbearing*
- 3. Is designed for companionship  
via a helper-strength  
complementary and  
different*

*Genesis 1:26-28*

*Genesis 2:18-25*

## *Biblical Marriage Foundations*

- 4. Is a leaving and a cleaving  
Family unit  
United  
One flesh (sexual union)  
Permanent  
Witnessed by God*
- 5. Is to model Christ's love for  
His church*
- 6. Is to be honored by all*
- 7. Forbidding marriage is  
apostasy in end times*



*Genesis 2:24*

*Matt 19:4-6*

*Mal 2:14*

*Eph 4:21-5:23*

*Heb 13:4*

*I Tim 4:3*

## *Biblical Marriage Foundations*



**8. Marriage bed kept pure**  
**Monogamous**  
**Reserved for marriage**  
**Adultery forbidden, death**  
**penalty**  
**Sexual immorality forbidden**

**9. Carries within it the**  
**consequences of sin**

**10. Is for this life**

*Ex 20:14,17*

*Deut 22:13-30*

*Gen 3*

*Rom 8*

*Matt 22:30*

## *A Word on Divorce*

*1. God hates divorce*

*2. God never commands divorce*

*3. Divorce permitted "hardness of heart"*

*Jesus OT clarification (Moses):  
Only if marital unfaithfulness is  
remarriage permitted*

*4. Apostle Paul additional condition (?)  
:mixed marriage, unbeliever leaves  
(later this am)*



*Mal 2:13-16*

*Matt 19:7,8*

*Deut 24:1...*

*Matt 19:8,9*

*1 Cor 7:15*

## *A Word on Divorce*



**5. God's grace and forgiveness is for all who seek Him, whatever their current state**

**6. Live by God's Word through the Spirit & His fruitbearing**

*1 John 1,2*

*Gal 5: 19-23*

*Now concerning: Q1*



*The matters you wrote about*

*What about marriage?*

*Related marriage principles*

*The unmarried & widows*

*The married (specific)*

*The rest (mixed marriage)*

*The virgins*

*V 1-7*

*V 8-9*

*V 10-11*

*V 12-24*

*V 25-40*

*Contextual Marriage Principles:  
1. It is good not to marry*



*What about marriage? (inferred)*

*Celibacy as higher moral state  
than marriage, ascetisim*

*Licentious city  
Prostitution  
prevalent  
specific*

*Christians  
new converts*

V 1

*Contextual Marriage Principles:  
1. It is good not to marry*



***What this is not:***

- *agreeing with ascetics*
- *subordinating marriage*

***What this is:***

- *The Lord's design of marriage*
- *Specifics here*
  - *Better to marry*
  - *Present distress*
  - *Jesus' imminent return*
  - *You have not sinned*

V 1

V9, V26, V29

*Contextual Marriage Principles:  
1. It is good not to marry*



V1

*It is good for a man (anthropos) not to touch a woman (gune)*

- *Synecdoche figure of speech*
  - *Touch-the whole is marriage*

*Contextual Marriage Principles:  
1. It is good not to marry*



V1

*It is good for a man (anthropos) not to touch a woman (gune)*

- *Synecdoche figure of speech*
  - *Touch-the whole is marriage*

*The question: Is it good for a man not to marry?*

*Surprising answer: It is good for a man not to marry!*

## 2. It is also good to marry



*Before Paul elaborates on the direct answer to their question, he reminds them of God's design for marriage from the beginning, and how living within His design will assist you in the Corinth context:*

*It is natural to marry, ...*

- *Sexual immorality abounds*
- *Your Christian marriage is a safeguard*
- *Let each have his own wife (gune)*
- *Let every gune have her own (aner)*

V 1

2 But since there is so much immorality, each man should have his own wife, and each woman her own husband.

## 2. It is also good to marry

*It is natural to marry, ...*

- *Each should fulfill marital duties*
- *Each belongs to the other*
- *And it is also good with mutual agreement to set aside for prayer*
- *And after that time, to come together again, with your spiritual purposes completed*



•3 The husband should fulfil his marital duty to his wife, and likewise the wife to her husband.

•4 The wife's body does not belong to her alone but also to her husband. In the same way, the husband's body does not belong to him alone but also to his wife.

• 5 Do not deprive each other except by mutual consent and for a time, so that you may devote yourselves to prayer. Then come together again so that Satan will not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.

### *3. Each has their gift from God*



*The matters of celibacy or continence?*

*I wish, not a command but a concession...able to serve not with the additional responsibilities of marriage*

*It is about God's gift and His calling*

*To not marry, gift of celibacy  
To marry, the gift of serving  
together*

*6 I say this as a concession, not as a command.*

*7 I wish that all men were as I am. But each man has his own gift from God; one has this gift, another has that.*

**Q2: What about the unmarried and widows?**



**To not marry, gift of celibacy  
To marry, the gift of serving together**

**Paul's preference again  
Context of gifts and calling**

**If not self control for gift of celibacy, better to marry**

8 Now to the unmarried and the widows I say: It is good for them to stay unmarried, as I am.

9 But if they cannot control themselves, they should marry, for it is better to marry than to burn with passion.

### *Q3: What about the married?*

*Context: Christian marriage*

*Not I but the Lord (direct quote)*

*Do not separate (command)*

*If do, reconcile or stay single*

*Do not divorce*



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

*V 11*

*Matt 19:3-12*

*Matt 5:13*

## Q4: What about the "rest"?



***Context: Mixed marriage (C, NC)***

***I say this, not the Lord***

- no quote from Jesus while here***
- inspiration of the Spirit***

***Do not separate, be willing to remain***

- by staying, God's work:***
  - sanctified relationship***
  - salvation goal***
  - holiness of the children***

V 12

V 13-14, 16

**Q4: What about the "rest"?**



**Context: Mixed marriage (C, NC)**

**If the unbeliever leaves, separates**

**Let them leave**

**The believer is not bound (enslaved)**

- additional condition**
- remarriage allowed**  
**(no adultery)**

V 15

*What about me?*



***Who am I?***

- believer in Christ?***
- committed to holiness***

***Where am I in Him?***

- living in His gifts?***

***What is my relationship with others?***

- in Christian love?***
- in His purpose?***

*1 Cor 1:2-9*

*The Lord speaks to us -  
let us hear and heed*



*To my local church in  
South Porcupine, you have been sanctified in me. I have  
called you into fellowship with Me. I called you to be  
holy in your mind and heart, whoever you are with and  
wherever you are. I brought you peace and grace.*

*I have enriched you in every way, and I ask you to  
reflect it in all your speaking and in all your knowledge.  
In me, you do not lack any spiritual gift as you eagerly  
wait for me to come again.*

*I am always faithful. I will keep you strong to the end,  
so that you will be blameless on the day of my return.*