

## ***Divorce in Sin City (1 Corinthians 7:10-24)***

### **I. Introduction**

- A. The longer ditty 'bout “Jonas and Artemis”
- B. Reading the text with “Pastor Timotheus”

### **II. Paul continues to answer the Corinthians’ questions (vss 10-16)**

- A. Recapping the advice for **married Christians** (vss. 1-9)
- B. **For married Christians considering divorce** (vss. 10-11)
  - 1. Paul evokes Jesus’ teaching (Mark 10:2-12)
    - a. Ideas on divorce: Hillel, Shammai, and Genesis 2:24
  - 2. Do not divorce ... *but if you do* ...
    - a. Paul was a realist – divorce will happen in the church
    - b. Reconciliation of a broken Christian marriage speaks volumes to a broken world that needs to be reconciled to God
- C. **For Christians Married to Unbelievers** (vss. 12-16)
  - 1. The believing spouse is not to initiate a divorce (vss 12-13)
  - 2. Any divorce is only to be initiated by the unbelieving partner – and the believing spouse should not resist (v. 15)
  - 3. A **promise** for the “mixed marriage” household (v. 14)
    - a. A different conclusion than his Pharisaic “separatist” tradition
    - b. Holiness is contagious (Rom 11:16)
  - 4. A **hope** for the “mixed marriage” household (v. 16, 1 Pet 3:1-2)
    - a. How different this is from selfish reasons for getting divorced
    - b. Not a guarantee, but a hope in a powerful transforming Gospel
  - 5. *God has called us to peace*
    - a. It is a very difficult challenge to live with an unbeliever, but it is the better way.
    - b. This has nothing to do with remarriage.
  - 6. The balance between the “already” and the “not yet”

### **III. The Guiding Principle behind Paul’s advice on Marriage (vss 17-24)**

- A. Believers should remain in the state they are in when they were saved
  - 1. Illustrative analogy 1: circumcised/uncircumcised (vss 18-19)
    - a. Circumcision doesn’t matter!!! How can it be?
    - b. We have a primary and secondary citizenship
    - c. How Paul viewed works and the commandment
  - 2. Illustrative analogy 2: slave/free (vss. 21-23)
    - a. Slaves should not seek freedom!!!! How can it be?
    - b. Understanding slavery in First Century Rome
    - c. Our identity as Christians is found in Christ
    - d. Relax and remain with God wherever you find yourself
  - 3. The Gospel erases human markers of identity (Gal 3:27-28)
- B. The world in its present form is passing away (1 Cor 7:31)
  - 1. So, bloom where you are planted ...
  - 2. We are not here to create a utopian world for ourselves

### **IV. Application**

- 1. Christ did not come to improve your quality of life, so ...
- 2. Your heavenly Bridegroom rejoices of you (Is 62:4-5)