

Divorce and Remarriage: What did Paul Say?

(Pastor John Brackbill/1 Corinthians 7:8-38/6.15.14)

1:15 pm Sunday School)

Two Interpretative Controls for 1 Corinthians 7

- The teaching in this chapter is framed by statements _____ divorce and statements for the _____ of marriage (10-13, 39)
- The teaching in this chapter addresses different topics
 - Instructions About Sexual Relations in Marriage (1-7)
 - Instructions for the unmarried and widows (8-9)
 - Instructions for married believers (10-11)
 - Instructions for believers married to unbelievers (12-16)
 - Instructions for contentment with the circumstances in which someone trusts Christ (17-24)
 - Instructions for those who have never been married (25-38)
 - Instructions for believing wives about remarriage (39-40)

Who is Paul talking about when he refers to the unmarried and to widows (1 Corinthians 7:8-9)?

- *There are contextual reasons that “the unmarried” here cannot be a general term including those who _____*
 - For the word “unmarried” to be a general term for all unmarried people would be _____
 - For the word “unmarried” to be a general term for all unmarried people would be to _____ Paul’s previous teaching
 - Throughout this chapter Paul deals with husbands and wives in his teaching and so similarly here he is addressing widows and widowers.
 - NT Greek does not use a specific word for “_____”
- *Therefore, the counsel that Paul gives in verses 8-9 is not for _____ individuals but for widows and _____.*

What does Paul mean that a believer is not bound in the case of an unbelieving spouse wanting a divorce (1 Corinthians 7:15)?

- *Reasons why Paul cannot be saying that _____ is permissible after _____ an unbelieving spouse:*
 - Paul’s reasoning in vs. 12-16 is about divorce not _____
 - Jesus has already said that to remarry in this kind of situation would be to commit _____ (Mark 10:11; Luke 16:18; Matthew 5:32, 19:9)
 - Paul has and will again in 1 Corinthians 7 explicitly _____ remarriage after divorce (10-11, 39)
 - Paul’s reasoning in verse 16 would be _____ if “not under bondage” refers to the freedom to remarry
 - And finally, Paul uses a different word here for bondage (*douloo*) rather than his normal word for _____ (*deo*)
- *Rather Paul is saying the believing spouse is no longer bound to his _____ in verse 12 of not getting divorced from the unbelieving spouse.*

What does Paul mean by “but if you marry, you have not sinned?” (1 Corinthians 7:28)? *Reasons why Paul cannot mean “if a _____ person _____ they do not sin.”*

- *A _____ is introduced in verses 25-38*
- *What Paul says in verses 26-38 is his counsel to _____ in light of the present circumstances.*
- *Paul first addresses _____ virgins then _____ virgins in 1 Corinthians 7:25-28.*

- In context the words “bound,” “wife,” and “released” must refer to those who are _____ rather than married.

The word “bound” is the Greek word *deo* and can refer to a bond of marriage or betrothal

The word “wife” is the Greek word *gene* that depending on the context either means wife or woman.

The Greek word for ‘released’ (*luo*) is never used by Paul for _____, he uses *chorizo* and *aphiemi* for divorce (both in this very chapter; vs. 10, 11, 12, 13, 15).

- Fifth, if Paul is addressing things that Jesus has not given a _____ then he cannot be addressing divorce and remarriage in verses 25-38
- Sixth, Paul would not _____ his clear statements against divorce and remarriage that frame this whole chapter