Questions -> Marriage & Singleness (Pt 3)

Matters about Which You Wrote? (7:1)

Inferring some of the possible questions they might have asked:

1. **Should single Christians remain celibate?** ***(1-2, 7-9)***
2. **Should married couples continue normal sexual relations after becoming Christians?** ***(3-6)***
3. **Is divorce permitted for Christians?** ***(10-11)***
4. **What about when only one partner becomes a Christian?** ***(12-16)***
5. **Should Christian fathers give their daughters in marriage? (*25-38*)**
6. **May a Christian widow remarry? (*39-40*)**

Appointed Time / Very Short
In View of the Present Distress

*Unlikely Paul is referring to the second coming of Christ as he was aware that no one knew when Jesus was coming back (**1Th 5:2**)

*Possible he means that their time for ministry is very short in view of the present distress.

*Paul wants them to live every day for the Lord "undivided devotion to the Lord" (**35**)

Anxieties of Marriage
In View of the Present Distress

*Worldly Troubles (**28, 33-34**)

How to please:
-Wife (**33**) Husband (**34**)

In My Judgment (40)
Why is Paul "Judgement" here different than in 1 Tim?

1 Tim 5:14 "*So I would have younger widows marry, bear children, manage their households...*"

Paul resumes answering questions (7:1)

25 ***Now concerning*** the **betrothe**d, I have *no command from the Lord*, but I give ***my judgment*** as one who by the Lord's mercy is ***trustworthy***. 26 I think that **in view of the present distress** it is good for a person to ***remain as he is***. **<- General Rule (17-24)**

27 Are you ***bound*** to a wife? ***Do not seek to be free***. Are you ***free*** from a wife? ***Do not seek a wife***. 28 But *if you do marry*, ***you have not sinned***, and *if a betrothed woman marries*, ***she has not sinned***. Yet those who marry will have ***worldly troubles***, and I would spare you that. 29 This is what I mean, brothers: the **appointed time has grown very short**. From now on, let those who *have wives* live ***as though they had none***, 30 and those who *mourn* ***as though they were not mourning***, and those who *rejoice* ***as though they were not rejoicing***, and those who *buy* ***as though they had no goods***, 31 and those who *deal with the world* ***as though they had no dealings with it***. For the **present form of this world is passing away**.

32 I want you to be free from **anxieties**. The *unmarried man is anxious* ***about the things of the Lord***, how to please the Lord. 33 But the *married* man is anxious about worldly things, ***how to please his wife***, 34 and his interests are divided. And the *unmarried or betrothed woman is anxious* ***about the things of the Lord***, how to be holy in body and spirit. But *the married woman* is *anxious* about worldly things, ***how to please her husband***. 35 I say this for your own benefit, **not to lay any restraint upon you**, but to promote good order and to secure your **undivided devotion to the Lord**.

36 If anyone thinks that **he** is not behaving properly toward **his betrothed**, if ***his passions are strong***, and it has to be, let him do as he wishes: ***let them marry—it is no sin***. 37 But whoever is ***firmly established in his heart, being under no necessity*** but having his desire under control, and has determined this in his heart, to keep her as his betrothed, ***he will do well***. 38 So then he who ***marries his betrothed does well***, and ***he who refrains from marriage will do even better***.

39 A wife is ***bound to her husband*** as long as he lives. But if ***her husband dies, she is free to be married*** to whom she wishes, ***only in the Lord***. 40 Yet in **my judgment** she is ***happier if she remains as she is***. And I think that I too have the Spirit of God. **<- In the Lord 2Cor 6:14-7:1**

The Betrothed (25)

*Literally "virgins"

*The word **παρθένος (*parthenos*)** was also used to describe those engaged to be married.

*Ultimately, the question Paul is answering here must be similar to the one he answered earlier in the chapter in vv. 1-2, 7-9.

Remain As He Is (26)

-Paul's recommendation ties back to the general "rule" from vv. 17-24

-(**26**) Paul's instruction is "***in view of the present distress***"

Is Paul ***contradicting God*** from **Gen 2:18?**

"It is not good that the man should be alone"

-Paul held marriage in high esteem

***Eph 5:22-33**
***1Tim 3:2, 12; 4:1-3; 5:14**

-Even ***"in view of the present distress"***, Paul is making it clear that he is NOT prohibiting marriage!

Not Behaving Properly

The translation here is challenging.

-Who is the "he" in 26?

-"his passions are strong" could also be translated as "she is past her youth"

*Most likely this is aimed at the father of the "betrothed" whose daughter is getting past the age of marriage.

What is God's Plan for Marriage?

Gen 2:18-25
"Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh."

*God's plan is for One Man + One Woman to be joined for life!

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The Betrothed

4221 παρθένος (*parthenos*), ου (*ou*), ἡ (*hē*) or ὁ (*ho*): n.fem. or masc.; ≡ DBLHebr 1435, 6625; Str 3933; TDNT 5.826—**1.** LN 9.39 (female) **virgin** (Mt 1:23; 25:1, 7, 11; Lk 1:27, 27; Ac 21:9; 1Co 7:25, 28, 34, 36, 37, 38; 2Co 11:2+; Mt 1:16 v.r.); **2.** LN 9.33 (male) **virgin** (Rev 14:4+); **3.** LN 34.77 **unmarried person**, one not necessarily a virgin (1Co 7:25+), for another interp, see prior[1]

Remain As He Is

1 Corinthians 7:17–24 (ESV)
17 Only let each person lead the life that the Lord has assigned to him, and to which God has called him. This is my rule in all the churches. 18 Was anyone at the time of his call already circumcised? Let him not seek to remove the marks of circumcision. Was anyone at the time of his call uncircumcised? Let him not seek circumcision. 19 For neither circumcision counts for anything nor uncircumcision, but keeping the commandments of God. 20 Each one should remain in the condition in which he was called. 21 Were you a bondservant when called? Do not be concerned about it. (But if you can gain your freedom, avail yourself of the opportunity.) 22 For he who was called in the Lord as a bondservant is a freedman of the Lord. Likewise he who was free when called is a bondservant of Christ. 23 You were bought with a price; do not become bondservants of men. 24 So, brothers, in whatever condition each was called, there let him remain with God.

1 Corinthians 7:1 (ESV)
1 Now concerning the matters about which you wrote: "It is good for a man not to have sexual relations with a woman."

1 Corinthians 7:8 (ESV)
8 To the unmarried and the widows I say that it is good for them to remain single, as I am.

1 Corinthians 7:26 (ESV)
26 I think that in view of the present distress it is good for a person to remain as he is.

Genesis 2:18–25 (ESV)
18 Then the LORD God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him." 19 Now out of the ground the LORD God had formed every beast of the field and every bird of the heavens and brought them to the man to see what he would call them. And whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. 20 The man gave names to all livestock and to the birds of the heavens and to every

[1] Swanson, J. (1997). In *Dictionary of Biblical Languages with Semantic Domains: Greek (New Testament)* (electronic ed.). Logos Research Systems, Inc.

beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper fit for him. [21] So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. [22] And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. [23] Then the man said,

"This at last is bone of my bones
and flesh of my flesh;
she shall be called Woman,
because she was taken out of Man."

[24] Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. [25] And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.

Ephesians 5:22–33 (ESV)

[22] Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. [23] For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. [24] Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands.

[25] Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, [26] that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, [27] so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. [28] In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. [29] For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, [30] because we are members of his body. [31] "Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." [32] This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church. [33] However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.

1 Timothy 3:2 (ESV)

[2] Therefore an overseer must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, sober-minded, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach,

1 Timothy 3:12 (ESV)

[12] Let deacons each be the husband of one wife, managing their children and their own households well.

1 Timothy 4:1–3 (ESV)

[1] Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons, [2] through the insincerity of liars whose consciences are seared, [3] who forbid marriage and require

abstinence from foods that God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth.

1 Timothy 5:14 (ESV)
14 So I would have younger widows marry, bear children, manage their households, and give the adversary no occasion for slander.

Appointed Time

1 Thessalonians 5:2 (ESV)
2 For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night.

In the Lord

2 Corinthians 6:14–7:1 (ESV)
14 Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers. For what partnership has
righteousness with lawlessness? Or what fellowship has light with darkness? 15 What
accord has Christ with Belial? Or what portion does a believer share with an unbeliever?
16 What agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living
God; as God said,

"I will make my dwelling among them and walk among them,
and I will be their God,
and they shall be my people.
17 Therefore go out from their midst,
and be separate from them, says the Lord,
and touch no unclean thing;
then I will welcome you,
18 and I will be a father to you,
and you shall be sons and daughters to me,
says the Lord Almighty."
1 Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement
of body and spirit, bringing holiness to completion in the fear of God.