Questions -> Marriage & Singleness (Pt 1)

Matters about Which You Wrote?

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*)**

Not I, But the Lord

***Matthew 5:32**
"…everyone who ***divorces his wife***, except on the ground of ***sexual immorality***, makes her commit adultery, and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery."

***Matthew 19:3–9**
"*Is it lawful to divorce one's wife for any cause?*"

"So ***they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate***."

*"I say to you: whoever ***divorces his wife***, except for ***sexual immorality***, and marries another, ***commits adultery***."

***Luke 16:18**
"Everyone who ***divorces his wife*** and marries another ***commits adultery***, and he who marries a woman divorced from her husband commits adultery."

Paul begins to address questions raised by the Corinthian Christians and delivered in a letter:

1 ***Now concerning*** the matters *about which you wrote*: "***It is good for a man not to have sexual relations with a woman***." 2 **But** because of the ***temptation to sexual immorality***, each man *should have his own wife and each woman her own husband*.

"They [the two] shall become one flesh" (Gen 2:24; Mt 19:5; Eph 5:31)

3 The **husband** should ***give to his wife*** her conjugal rights, and likewise the **wife** to ***her husband***. 4 **For** the **wife** *does not have* ***authority over her own body***, but ***the husband does***. Likewise the **husband** *does not have* ***authority over his own body***, but ***the wife does***. 5 **Do not deprive one another**, ***except*** perhaps by agreement for a ***limited time***, that you may *devote yourselves to prayer*; but then come together again, so that ***Satan may not tempt you*** because of your lack of self-control. 6 Now as ***a concession***, **not** ***a command***, I say this.

In marriage our bodies belong to each other

7 ***I wish*** that ***all were as I myself am***. But each has his own gift from God, one of one kind and one of another. 8 To the **unmarried** and the **widows** I say that ***it is good for them to remain single, as I am***. 9 **But** ***if they cannot exercise self-control, they should marry***. For *it is better to marry than to burn with passion*. **<- v. 2**

Jesus spoke directly about divorce

10 To the **married** I give this charge (***not I, but the Lord***): the **wife** should ***not separate*** from her husband 11 (but if she does, she should remain unmarried or else be reconciled to her husband), and the **husband** should ***not divorce*** his wife.

How did Paul know the teachings of Jesus?

Galatians 1:11–12 (ESV) "For I would have you know, brothers, that ***the gospel that was preached by me is not man's gospel***. For I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it, but ***I received it through a revelation of Jesus Christ***."

It is Good (1, 8, 26)

"NOT to have sexual relations with a woman"

Likely refers to giving oneself in marriage.

"for them to remain single, as I am"

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

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

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

-Paul held marriage in high esteem

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

-If one is **single**, it is **NOT Mandatory** to ***get married***, though ***this institution is God-ordained***:

***Gen 2:18-25**

Do Not Deprive

*The ***present tense*** of the word ***translated "deprive"*** indicates that some at Corinth were ***practicing*** a kind of ***celibacy within the marriage relationship***

A Concession (Not a Command)

*Regarding a ***season*** of ***agreed upon celibacy*** between husband and wife

*This is **NOT** to be the ***permanent state*** so as ***not to give*** an ***opportunity*** for ***Satan*** to tempt:

1Pe 5:8 "Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour"

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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It is Good

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 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.

Opportunity for Satan

1 Peter 5:8 (ESV)
[8] Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

Christ on Divorce

Matthew 5:31–32 (ESV)
[31] "It was also said, 'Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.' [32] But I say to you that everyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of sexual immorality, makes her commit adultery, and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

Matthew 19:3–9 (ESV)
[3] And Pharisees came up to him and tested him by asking, "Is it lawful to divorce one's wife for any cause?" [4] He answered, "Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female, [5] and said, 'Therefore a man shall leave his

father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'? [6] So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate." [7] They said to him, "Why then did Moses command one to give a certificate of divorce and to send her away?" [8] He said to them, "Because of your hardness of heart Moses allowed you to divorce your wives, but from the beginning it was not so. [9] And I say to you: whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery."

Luke 16:18 (ESV)

[18] "Everyone who divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery, and he who marries a woman divorced from her husband commits adultery.

Paul > Teachings of Jesus

Galatians 1:11–17 (ESV)

[11] For I would have you know, brothers, that the gospel that was preached by me is not man's gospel. [12] For I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it, but I received it through a revelation of Jesus Christ. [13] For you have heard of my former life in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God violently and tried to destroy it. [14] And I was advancing in Judaism beyond many of my own age among my people, so extremely zealous was I for the traditions of my fathers. [15] But when he who had set me apart before I was born, and who called me by his grace, [16] was pleased to reveal his Son to me, in order that I might preach him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately consult with anyone; [17] nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me, but I went away into Arabia, and returned again to Damascus.