

"1 Corinthians 7:6-16"

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BIG SANDY, Texas—For many weeks, I have conducted a Wednesday-night Bible study and then summarized the material in the weekly "Among Friends" article on the following Saturday.

Since I didn't conduct the Bible study last Wednesday, I decided to write some more about the previous Bible study and the previous article. I concluded that study and that article by mentioning 1 Corinthians 7:6-15. I concluded last week's article with the following three bullet points.

- 1 Corinthians 7:6-9—Paul's opinion to the unmarried.
- 1 Corinthians 7:10-11—Paul's bold proclamation to the married.
- 1 Corinthians 7:12-15—Paul's opinion to the rest.

Opinion to the unmarried

1 Corinthians 7:6 (in King James)—"But I speak this by permission, and not of commandment."

1 Corinthians 7:6 (in New King James)—"But I say this as a concession, not as a commandment."

What was Paul's opinion to his friends?

- *1 Corinthians 7:7-9*—Paul recommended that all people should remain single, but they should get married if they couldn't contain themselves.

Later in that chapter, he further explained the reasoning for his opinion.

- *1 Corinthians 7:25*—This advice was not a commandment from the Lord, but Paul's personal judgment.
- *1 Corinthians 7:26*—Paul gave that opinion because of his view of the "present stress."

- *1 Corinthians 7:27*—Paul wrote that the married should remain married and the single should remain single.
- *1 Corinthians 7:28*—Paul wrote that marrying was not a sin, but he wanted to spare people from trouble as he viewed the troubles in the world at that time.
- *1 Corinthians 7:29-31*—Paul thought time was short.
- *1 Corinthians 7:32*—Paul wrote that the unmarried could focus more upon the Lord.
- *1 Corinthians 7:33*—Paul wrote that the married naturally spent time caring about their spouse and their family.
- *1 Corinthians 7:34*—Paul wrote that there was a difference because a single person can spend more time for the Lord, while a married person should spend more time for the spouse.
- *1 Corinthians 7:35*—Paul wrote that he was giving his opinion to be helpful, not trying to control the people. His words in the King James were to not "cast a snare upon you" and his words in the New King James were to not "put a leash on you."

Bold proclamation to the married

1 Corinthians 7:10-11—"Now to the married I command, yet not I but the Lord: A wife is not to depart from her husband. But even if she does depart, let her remain unmarried or be reconciled to her husband. And a husband is not to divorce his wife."

Opinion to the rest

1 Corinthians 7:12—"But to the rest I, not the Lord, say . . ."

We notice two concepts.

- Paul identified his writing at that time as his opinion—but it is generally now accepted as part of the biblical canon.
- Who are "the rest"?

In 1 Corinthians 7:12-16, Paul wrote about believers who were married to someone not of their religious beliefs.

- 1 Corinthians 7:12—Paul wrote that, if the unbelieving wife was willing to live with a believing husband, don't divorce her.
- 1 Corinthians 7:13—Paul wrote that, if the unbelieving husband was willing to live with a believing wife, don't divorce him.
- 1 Corinthians 7:14—Paul wrote that the unbelieving mate was sanctified by the believing mate—and the children were considered holy.
- 1 Corinthians 7:15—Paul wrote that, if the unbelieving mate left, the believing mate was not under bondage in such cases.
- 1 Corinthians 7:16—Then Paul wrote a question about the possibility of the believing mate helping to save the unbelieving mate.