
Last time we were in 1 Corinthians, we once again found ourselves being warned by the Apostle Paul about the dangers of sexual sins:

By now, in our study, we know that the sin of fornication was rampant in the city of Corinth, so much so that it was viewed in society at that time as normal behavior; much like the society of our day.

But if that wasn't bad enough, it got worse when the church at Corinth tolerated it in one of the members, which Paul dealt with in (C5).

As we began (C7) Paul was answering a letter that was written to him from the church at Corinth concerning the sin of fornication but also of marriage. 1 Corinthians 7:1-9 (Read and Explain); (V10-16)

(V10-11): If you're married, don't leave your husband or your wife.

But we live in a day and age in which the marital commitment has been reduced to an easily broken covenant. Young people have the idea, well if it doesn't work out, we'll just get a divorce. Matthew 5:31-32

One of the exceptions or lawful reasons for divorce, (saving for the cause of fornication). Matthew 19:3-12

Now Paul moves on to marriages in which, either the husband or the wife is saved, and the other is lost. (V12-13)

Now, says Paul, I am speaking, and not quoting the Lord. If you have an unsaved wife or husband, and they want to stay, that's good, you should not divorce your unsaved wife or your unsaved husband simply because they are not saved.

If your unsaved wife is pleased to dwell with you, (to cohabit), don't divorce her, If your unsaved husband is pleased to dwell with you, don't divorce him. Don't put her away; don't leave him.

Just because one of you has come to faith in Christ and the other has not, that is NOT a reason to STOP loving your unbelieving husband or your unbelieving wife. In fact, it's all the more reason to stay, to show them the love of Christ that they might be saved. Don't abandon your unbelieving spouse.

(V14-16): The unbelieving husband or wife is sanctified by the believing husband or wife.

The unbelieving husband or wife is blessed of God simply because he/she is in the same house and in the company of the believing husband or wife. God is going to bless that home and all who live there because of His believing child who lives there.

Think about it, the believing husband or wife is no doubt going to pray for the unbelieving husband or wife, but also, the believing spouse will bring a gospel and sanctifying influence on the unbelieving spouse and children, and in the

larger sphere to that home!
That HOME; that dwelling, and all of the unsaved that abide there will be blessed for the sake of that ONE believer that dwells there!

Genesis 30:25-27, 39:1-6, 20-23, Acts 27:18-25

There are blessings that will be enjoyed by the unsaved, simply for dwelling in the midst of and among the believing children of God!

Back to the point of 1 Corinthians 7:14-16:

They are brought under the sanctifying influence of the saved spouse, whether they know it or not.

(V15): Now if the unbelieving spouse departs and seeks a divorce, let them go.

You stuck it out, they didn't; if they depart, and divorce you, you are no longer bound to them.

A brother or sister is NOT under bondage IN SUCH CASES: but God hath called us to peace

I believe IN THIS CASE, the spouse that didn't depart the marriage nor seek a divorce is now free to remarry.

(Read V16): This is the desired end state for the marriage in which one spouse is lost and the other spouse is saved:

Paul once again picks up his teaching on marriage (V25)