

1 Corinthians 7.

Marriage in Perspective

"It is good for a man not to marry" (verse 1)

Discuss!

The Greek way of thinking

- The physical world and the physical body are corrupt and base, in contrast to the mind which is "spiritual".
- **So either.....**
- It doesn't matter what you do with your body
 - Or...
- You need to deny your body in every way possible.

A God's-eye view of marriage (verse 1-7)

1. Marriage is **GOOD** (v. 7)
2. Marriage is **MUTUAL** (v. 3-4)
3. Marriage is **PHYSICAL** (v. 5)
4. Marriage is **NOT EVERYTHING!** (v. 7,8,38,40)
5. Marriage is **PERMANENT** (v. 10-11)

Advice to.....

- The widowed and/or separated (8-9)
- Those married to another christian (10-11)
- Those married to nonbelievers (12-16)
- Those who've never married (25-35)
- Those on their way to marriage (36-38)

Christians and Nonchristians

1. Stay together if you can – v. 12-13
2. Expect God to work through you in your family – v. 14 + 16
3. Seek a christian to marry – v. 39

To go out or not to go out??

- Nonchristians can be in different places (v. 12-16) – those sympathetic and open, and those hostile to faith.
- Marriage will not turn a nonbeliever into a christian!

2 final perspectives...

1. Keep your focus on the Lord
 - It's Paul's reason for advocating singleness (v. 32)
 - Hold your property, possessions, moods, situation and even marriage lightly: you're living in the context of eternity!

2 final perspectives...

1. Keep your focus on the Lord
2. Find your calling *where you are*.
 - Don't live on the basis of "If only" and "when...."!!
 - You can find the calling of God amid circumcision (or not), in slavery or freedom, in singleness or marriage (verses 17-24)

*Right where you are,
God can fill you and fulfil you.
Right where you are,
He can bless you
and
use you for his kingdom.*