

Following Jesus With Our Whole Lives

1 Corinthians 7:17–40

More important than any status we hold dear or trial
we endure

Key Lenses for Understanding

- v. 17 – “Lead the life that the Lord has assigned”
- v. 35 – “To secure your undivided devotion to the Lord”
- These verses are the lenses that help us understand the passage.

1 Corinthians 7:17–24

— Lead the Life / Walk in the Way

- Be where you are
 - Serve God where you are, not where you want to be
 - Don't let external status define you
 - People may call you: mom, grandpa, boss, servant
 - Your most important status: bought by Jesus, free from sin
- Is Paul against marriage?
 - Generally positive: 1 Tim 4:1–3; Eph 5:22–23; Titus 1:6
 - In certain situations, recommends singleness

1 Corinthians 7:25–28 — Paul’s Judgment

- “No command from the Lord, but I give my judgment”
 - Paul gives advice, not command
- “In view of the present distress”
 - Some calamity affected Corinth
 - Severe enough Paul recommended singleness
- Remember vv. 17, 35 → Goal: undistracted devotion to Christ

1 Corinthians 7:29–31 — Eternal Perspective

- “The appointed time has grown very short”
- Shift from present crisis → Christ’s return
- New perspective helps us live fully for Christ now
- Luke 14:15–24, Luke 15:25–27

- What distracts you from Jesus?
 - Relationships, family?
 - Loss of loved one, job, status?
 - Business or pursuit of success?

1 Corinthians 7:32–35 — Undivided Devotion

- Marriage adds concerns and responsibilities
- Singleness may allow greater focus
- “To secure your undivided devotion to the Lord” (v. 35)
- Might God call some to remain single?
 - Not for selfish or fearful reasons
 - For the sake of devotion to Christ

1 Corinthians 7:36–40 — Widows and Freedom

- Culturally: widows expected to remarry
- Paul gives freedom to remain single
- Early church:
 - Church cared for widows
 - Widows served the church
- Mutual blessing in the body of Christ

Conclusion

Wherever you are, serve God with whole heart, soul, mind

1 Cor 7:17 — “Lead the life the Lord has assigned”

1 Cor 7:35 — “To secure your undivided devotion to the Lord”

**No matter where you've been or where you want to go —
follow Jesus now.**