

Study of 1 Corinthians 7
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1 Corinthians 7:1-40

In these *verses* Paul is offering his own opinion on matters that occur between a husband and his wife. He says that **IT IS** better to be married than to be consumed with unfulfilled sexual desires. Paul is telling us to stay away from such things as pornography, deviant sexual activities, stay away from fornication, homosexuality, paedophilia, and any and all other abhorrent sexual behaviours as described in *Leviticus 18 & 19*. Paul says **IT IS** better to be married than to burn with unfulfilled sexual desire and then try to fulfill those desires outside of a marriage covenant.

Under the tutelage of Messiah, Paul has given instructions to husbands and wives as follows in *Ephesians 5:22-26 Wives*, **SUBMIT yourselves unto your own husbands, AS UNTO Yahweh. For the husband IS the head of the wife, even AS Messiah IS the head of the assembly, the ekklesia, the qahal, His Betrothed: and He IS the Saviour of the body. Therefore as the church IS SUBJECT unto Messiah, so let the wives BE SUBJECT TO THEIR OWN HUSBANDS IN EVERY THING. Husbands, LOVE YOUR WIVES, EVEN AS MESSIAH ALSO LOVED THE ASSEMBLY, THE EKKLESIA, HIS BETROTHED, and gave Himself for it (Her); That He might sanctify and cleanse His Qahal, His assembly, His Betrothed, with the washing of water BY THE WORD, That He might present His Assembly to Himself a glorious Assembly, Qahal, Betrothed, NOT having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; BUT that IT SHOULD BE HOLY AND WITHOUT BLEMISH.**

Here in 1 Corinthians, Paul just reiterates what he has said in Ephesians, he says that a man **IS TO LOVE** and honour his wife, he is also to treat his wife with the utmost respect, care and compassion; and the wife **IS TO DO** the same for her husband. Paul is telling **ALL** peoples, but especially those of us that are married, to cherish each other, to respect and love each other, and to make our spouses the most important person in our lives. He even goes as far as to say that a woman's body **IS NOT HER OWN BUT** that it belongs to her husband, and that the husband's body **IS NOT HIS OWN EITHER, BUT** that it belongs to his wife, and that my friends supports what Yahweh has said about what happens when we marry, He said we become **ONE** flesh, one body, and no one hates his own body. Therefore both the husband and the wife are to love and respect each other, and **NOT WITHHOLD** their bodies from each other, **BUT** they are to have respect for each other and try to fulfill each other's sexual needs, keeping in mind each other's wishes and doing everything with love in their hearts. Neither the man nor the woman **IS TO ABUSE** this Elohim given privilege of marriage, for Yahweh has said that **THE MARRIAGE BED IS NOT DEFILED** and that both the husband and the wife can enjoy each other in their Elohim given sexual relationship. Our heavenly Father loves us and He created us as sexual beings, and then He instituted the Covenant of marriage as a sanctuary where our sexual desires can be realized **IN THE MANNER THAT HE, YAHWEH, INTENDED IT TO BE, AND THAT IS WITH LOVE, CARE AND COMPASSION FOR EACH OTHER.**

Paul by this time was celibate and because Paul believed that the end of the world was near and that the return of Messiah was imminent, and he therefore advised those that could follow celibate way of life as a better way of life, **BECAUSE, THEN**, according to Paul, **ALL** of their focus and attention could be devoted to Elohim, and **NOT** have any of their focus diverted from Yahweh onto their

spouse. Please understand that that was Paul's decision to follow that particular way of life. When Yahweh created both man and woman, His directive to them was **GO FORTH AND MULTIPLY** and therefore marriage between a man and a woman was ordained by Elohim, and one can fulfill his role as a husband and still be a devoted servant of Elohim.

In *verse 10* Paul is telling us that Yahweh **IS** against divorce and that He prefers that there be no divorce among the people of Elohim, **BUT** unfortunately there sometimes are irreconcilable differences between people, and divorces do happen, and as Messiah said to the Pharisees, **IT IS** because of our hard hearts, that Mosheh, in the Law, in the Torah, gave us permission to get divorced, **BUT** only under certain circumstances. *Verse 10 And unto the married I command, YET NOT I, BUT YAHWEH, Let not the wife depart from her husband: 11 But and if she depart, let her remain unmarried, or be reconciled to her husband: and let not the husband put away his wife.*

Next Paul gives us advice on what to do **IF** a person **IS** married to an unbelieving spouse, and please understand that this **IS NOT** a Commandment of Elohim, **IT IS ONLY PAUL'S OPINION** and or his finite advice, and he quite clearly states that. *12 But to the rest speak I, NOT Yahweh: If any brother has a wife that believes not, and she be pleased to dwell with him, let him not put her away. 13 And the woman who has a husband that believes not, and if he be pleased to dwell with her, let her not leave him. 14 For the unbelieving husband IS SANCTIFIED by the wife, and the unbelieving wife IS SANCTIFIED by the husband: else were your children unclean; but now are they holy.*

At the end of *verse 14* there is something said **THAT I DID NOT AGREE WITH**, until I researched what I believe Paul meant when he said *else were your children unclean; but now are they holy*. In Paul's day **ALL** Jewish people believed that the nations, the people of the world, the ones that they called heathens, were unholy and unclean, and since **ALL** of Yisrael were Elohim's people, that meant that they were holy, they were clean and therefore he uses the vernacular of the day and calls the children unclean, and that **IS** because he believed that the children of such unions would then be raised by an unbelieving spouse and exposed to his Torahless ways, they would probably be brought up as unbelievers in the ways of Yahweh. On the other hand a child that **IS** born to unbelieving or believing people **IS NOT UNCLEAN, BUT IF** he or she **IS NOT** brought up in the ways of Yahweh, they soon will become unclean.

Paul goes on and says, *verse 15 But if the unbelieving depart, let him depart. A brother or a sister is NOT under bondage in such cases: BUT Elohim has called us to peace. 16 For what do you know, O wife, whether you shall save your husband? Or how do you know, O man, whether you shall save your wife? 17 But as Elohim has distributed to every man, as Yahweh has called every one, so let him walk. And so ordain I in all churches.*

What Paul is saying is that the believing spouse will be an example, a beacon of light **IF YOU WILL**, unto the unbelieving spouse, and that might be the only light that the unbelieving spouse sees in their entire life, therefore **IF** the unbelieving spouse chooses to stay, then the believing spouse should welcome that circumstance.

Next Paul speaks of the condition that we were **ALL** in when Yahweh calls us to Himself. *Verse 18 IS any man called being circumcised? Let him NOT become uncircumcised. Is any called in uncircumcision? Let him not be circumcised. 19 Circumcision (in and of itself) IS NOTHING,*

and uncircumcision IS NOTHING, BUT THE KEEPING OF THE COMMANDMENTS OF ELOHIM.

Here Paul is **NOT** speaking out against circumcision, he **IS** simply stating that when you are called by Elohim into His service, then you are to come as you are, don't wait for your circumstances to change, but come right away. Once you are in the fold, there are many good teachers that will teach you the **WAYS** of Yahweh, and how to **KEEP FOLLOW, OBEY THE WORDS THE COMMANDMENTS OF ELOHIM**, and you can learn to adopt His Words of **TRUTH**, and put them into practice in your life. Elohim's ways, Elohim's inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions, **GIVES LIFE TO EVERYONE THAT WILLINGLY AND LOVINGLY CHOOSES TO OBEY THEM**, when they obey His inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions, His Torah of Life. **It is only** by loving surrendered obedience, that one can live his life here on earth and then go onto eternal life, as the bride of Messiah in Yahweh's eternal kingdom forever.

In these next verses Paul admonishes **ALL** people that choose to come into the kingdom of Elohim, and place themselves under His Constitution, His inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions, the Words of His Torah of Life, are to come as they are and not seek to change their circumstances before they come into the kingdom.

*Verse 20 Let every man abide **IN THE SAME CALLING** wherein he was called. 21 Are you called being a servant? Care not for it: but **IF** you may be made free, use it rather. 22 For he that is called in Messiah, being a servant, is Messiah's freeman: likewise also he that is called, being free, is Messiah's servant.*

Paul tells us that regardless of what circumstances we were in, before we surrendered our lives to our heavenly Father, we were all sinners, and **ALL** of us deserved to die and be lost for eternity, **BUT** our heavenly Father **BOUGHT OUR FREEDOM** by the blood of Messiah, by the Sinless Torah obedient Life that Messiah chose to live while He was here on earth, therefore our lives **NO LONGER BELONG TO US ANYMORE**, because we have been bought by the blood of Messiah, His Torah obedient sinless life, and we are His, and therefore we must learn to surrender our wishes to His wish and obey what He has asked us to obey.

*Verse 23 You are bought with a price; be **NOT** servants of men. 24 Brethren, let every man, wherein he is called, therein abide with Elohim.*

In these last sixteen *verses* Paul gives us his opinion, his judgement on the circumstances that people find themselves in. Please understand that this is Paul's opinion **ONLY**, and **NOT** necessarily Messiah's nor our heavenly Father's opinion. Paul, along with many other believers thought that the **End Times** were upon them, he thought that the return of Messiah was close at hand, and **IF** that were the case, **THEN** it would be better to focus all of one's attention onto that blessed event. **IF** a person were to marry and then this event were to happen, then he would have to worry about his wife and the things that could happen to her and or his family in these trying times, therefore Paul was convinced that it would be better to remain single and concentrate on being ready for the return of Messiah. As we all know, that blessed event has **NOT HAPPENED YET, BUT** it will eventually happen in Yahweh's set time and not our own.

*Verse 25 Now concerning virgins I have no commandment of YHVH: yet I give **MY judgment**, as one*

that has obtained mercy of Messiah to be faithful.

Verse 26 I suppose therefore that this is good for the present distress, I say, that it is good for a man so to be.

The present distress is what was happening in Yisrael at that time, and believers in Messiah were being persecuted by the Jews and by the Romans and therefore Paul advised people that it was probably better **NOT TO MARRY**, because worrying about what could happen to your wife and or your family would just add to their stress level, and take time away from being prepared for the return on the Messiah.

Paul made some recommendations to the believers of the day, given the set of circumstances that Paul believed were about to transpire, and that **IS** the imminent return of our Messiah in a very short period of time, and according to Paul, it would be a very difficult time for all believers to take care of themselves and even more difficult to take care of a wife and children in the oncoming tribulation.

What follows are **PAUL'S RECOMMENDATIONS, and NOT COMMANDMENTS:**

Are you bound unto a wife? Don't seek to be loosed, separated or divorced from her.

Are you loosed, separated or divorced from a wife? Don't seek to get a wife

*If you marry, you have **NOT** sinned*

*If a virgin marry, she has **NOT** sinned*

*Nevertheless **IF** you marry you will have trouble in the flesh*

But I want to spare you this anguish

*I tell you brethren, **THE TIME IS SHORT** (the time of the return of Messiah)*

It remains, that both they that have wives be as though they had none

They that weep, as though they wept not

They that rejoice, as though they rejoiced not

They that buy, as though they possessed not

They that use this world, as not abusing it

For the fashion of this world PASSES AWAY. As you can see by the text, Paul **IS** convinced that the world as he knows **IT, IS** soon going to end, and he believes that **IT IS GOING TO PASS AWAY** and that **ALL** believers should be ready for this blessed event.

Paul did not want believers to have any undue stress in their lives because of what he thought was an impending event of the tribulation and his belief that Messiah's return was just around the corner.

But I would have you without worries or additional stress

*He that is unmarried **cares for** the things that belong to Messiah*

*He **cares** how he may please Yahweh*

*He that is married **cares for** the things that are of the world*

*He **cares** how he may please and protect his wife and family*

There is a difference also between a wife and a virgin.

*The unmarried woman **cares for** the things of Yahweh, that she may be holy both in body and in spirit*

*She that is married **cares for** the things of the world, how she may please her husband*

Paul concludes with these words:

*All of this I speak **FOR YOUR OWN PROFIT***

*I do not want to add to your stress,
 However, I want to tell you what **I BELIEVE** is good and necessary behaviour
 So that you may attend to Yahweh's Word and Works without distraction. If any man thinks that he
 behaves himself improperly towards his virgin, if she is past the flower of her age, and need so
 require, let him do what he will, he sins not: **let them marry**
 Nevertheless, he that stands steadfast in his heart, having no necessity
 He that has power over his own will
 He that has so decreed in his heart that he will keep his virgin, he does well
 So then, he that gives her in marriage does well
 But he that gives her not in marriage does better
 The wife is bound by the Law as long as her husband lives
 But **IF** her husband be dead, she is at liberty to be married to whom she will; only in Yahweh
 But I believe that she is happier **IF** she so abides in celibacy, after my judgment:
 I think that I also have the Spirit of Elohim.*

It is very important that we understand that all of these recommendations are based on Paul's belief
 that the tribulation, the return of Messiah was imminent, and that **ALL** believers would be going
 through some very stressful and difficult times called the tribulation, and therefore, Paul
 recommended that believers should prepare themselves in the manner that he suggested for the very
 difficult times that he believed were about to happen in the not to distant future. Amein

In verse 39 Paul said something that he repeated in *Romans 7:2* that *a wife is bound **BY LAW** to her
 husband as long as he lives, but if the husband dies, she is at liberty to be married to whomever she
 wills.* The wife **is NOT** bound to the Law, the Torah, she is bound to her **HUSBAND BY THE LAW**,
 the Torah, which in both of these cases, here in *1 Corinthians:7:39* and in *Romans 7:2* the husband
 that she **IS BOUND TO, IS a picture of our old man, our old ways, our Torahless sinful ways, BUT**
 when we put our old Torahless ways, to death, when we put our old man to death, then, we **ARE**
FREE to marry anyone that we want to, **BUT**, if we do marry again, we come under the very same
 dictate, that stipulates that we are Bound to our **NEW HUSBAND BY THE LAW** until he, our new
 husband **IS DEAD, BUT, IF** we become the Bride of Messiah, who **NEVER DIES, THEN, WE**
ARE BOUND TO HIM BY THAT SAME LAW, THE TORAH, FOREVER, for Messiah **NEVER**
DIES. Keep that in mind always, that in Messiah, **WE**, who aspire to be His Bride are bound
 together with Him **BY THE LAW, BY THE TORAH FOREVER.** Amein

Studying and keeping Torah together as a community.

*Have a great Elohim blessed week and may Yahweh bless your every thought,
 and your every deed. Until we meet again, שְׁלוֹם עֲלֵיכֶם, Shalom Aleykem. Amein!*