



# Study Guide

## 1 Corinthians 7

November 6 & 7, 2021

**Ask the Holy Spirit to speak to you  
and then read 1 Corinthians 7:1-40.**

In last week's study guide we looked at the foundational passages for the Bible's view of marriage. If you didn't look at last week's guide it might be helpful to go find it and study those passages. In this section of his letter Paul is addressing questions that the Corinthians had raised about marriage and singleness and discusses how **whatever our relationship status, we should be grateful and faithful.**

1. How would you describe the view of marriage handed down to you by your family? How has it changed throughout the years?
2. Are you married or single right now? What are the benefits (practical and spiritual) of your "relationship status" right now? What are the challenges of your relationship status?
3. **1 Corinthians 7:3-6** discusses a married couple's mutual responsibility to one another sexually. What kind of behavior/attitudes are these verses given to correct? How could these verses possibly be twisted and abused by sinful people?
4. In **verses 10-16** Paul teaches us how we should think about divorce. He refers to Jesus' instructions about divorce (**cf. Matthew 5:32, 19:9**) and then gives his own God-inspired instructions. According to Jesus and Paul what are the two explicit exceptions for why believers may get divorced? *[[by the way, many theologians/pastors would also say abuse falls under the exception given by Paul]]*
5. What are some other reasons people decide to divorce that would not be permitted by Scripture? How would you speak with a brother or a sister considering divorce for some other reason? How would you challenge and encourage them and what posture would you take?
6. In between addressing marriage and singleness, Paul seems to take a detour in **verses 17-24**. Look carefully at this passage. There is a phrase that's repeated three times that summarizes what he's driving at. What is it? What's the basic gist of this section, and how does it relate to marriage and singleness?
7. What are some different types of status that people might look to change today, but that we shouldn't be concerned with because of our membership in God's Kingdom?
8. In **verses 25-40** Paul tells the single person that getting married would be good and not being married would be good! They are free to choose either way. If you are single, what kind of factors should go into deciding whether or not to pursue marriage?
9. Paul tells widows they can remarry, but the person must belong to the Lord. It seems that he taught that people who were already Christians should not get married to unbelievers (possibly **2 Corinthians 6:14** can be applied). Be honest. Do you view this as a command from God or more like a guideline to take under advisement? If you're single, how should that impact your dating?