



PREACHING THE CROSS
God's Remedy for a Troubled Church

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF LAKE ORION

Content in Your Calling

Sunday, August 7, 2016

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TEXT: 1 Corinthians 7:17–24

Believing that they had arrived spiritually and had already entered the “kingdom age” by the Spirit, the Corinthians were insisting that in this new age, there is no marriage.

According to them, marriage is for the temporal not the eternal. They concluded that it is good for those who are single not to marry and for those who are married to divorce. Paul emphasizes the guiding principle established for all the church: each believer should retain the place in life that the Lord has assigned to him when God called him.

vv. 1–7 to the married:

stay married with full conjugal rights

vv. 8–9 to the widowers and widows:

it is good to remain unmarried

vv. 10–11 to the married (both partners believers)

remain married

vv. 12–16 to those with an unbelieving spouse:

remain married if he consents

vv. 25–38 to "virgins"

it is good to remain unmarried

vv. 39–40 to married women (and widows):

the married are bound to the marriage; when widowed, it is good to remain that way.

This guiding principle is a general rule set forth because of some “present distress” the Corinthians were facing (7:26), but the principle was not absolute (7:28).

I. REVIEW

- A. **The First Slogan:** *All things are lawful for me, but not all things are profitable. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be mastered by anything, 6:12.*
- B. **The Second Slogan:** *Food is for the stomach and the stomach is for food, and God will do away with both of them, 6:13a.*
- C. **The Third Slogan:** *Every sin that a man commits is outside the body, 6:18b.*
- D. **The Fourth Slogan:** *It is good for a man not to touch a woman, 7:1b.*

I. THE PRINCIPLE STATED, 7:17, 20, 24.

- A. **The First Statement of the Principle, 7:17.**
- B. **The Second Statement of the Principle, 7:20.**
- C. **The Third Statement of the Principle, 7:24.**

1. The Lord Sovereignly Assigns Each Believer's Walk of Life, 7:17.
17 Only, as the Lord has assigned to each one, as God has called each, in this manner let him walk. And so I direct in all the churches.

2. While Each Believer's Assignment Differs, the Calling Is the Same, 7:18-19.
18 Was any man called when he was already circumcised? He is not to become uncircumcised. Has anyone been called in uncircumcision? He is not to be circumcised. 19 Circumcision is nothing, and uncircumcision is nothing, but what matters is the keeping of the commandments of God.

II. THE PRINCIPLE APPLIED, 7:18-19, 21-23.

- A. **Paul Applies the Principle to the Greatest Religious Barrier of the Day, 7:18-19.**

**B. Paul Applies the Principle to the Greatest Sociological Barrier of the Day,
7:21-23.**

21 Were you called while a slave? Do not worry about it; but if you are able also to become free, rather do that. 22 For he who was called in the Lord while a slave, is the Lord's freedman; likewise he who was called while free, is Christ's slave. 23 You were bought with a price; do not become slaves of men.

1. God is Not Hindered By One's Social Status.

2. One's Social Status Should Not Hinder One's Service for God.

- a. God's Calling Liberates the Slave.
- b. God's Calling Enslaves the Liberated.

III. CONCLUSION: *Make Me a Captive* by George Matheson

Make me a captive, Lord.
And then I shall be free;
Force me to render up my sword,
And I shall conqueror be.

My will is not my own
Till Thou hast made it Thine;
If it would reach the monarch's throne
It must its crown resign.

I sink in life's alarms
When by myself I stand,
Imprison me within Thine arms,
And strong shall be my hand.

I only stand unbent
Amid the clashing strife,
When on Thy bosom I have leant,
And found in Thee my life.

I cannot freely move
Until You break my chain;
Enslave me with Thy matchless love,
And deathless I shall reign.