



HAMMERING IT OUT

Studies in *1 Corinthians*

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Growing in Spirit & Truth

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Not All About Us 1 Corinthians 7-8



Authentic Christianity is hammered out in the details of life.

The 5 Purposes of the Purpose Driven Life

- **Worship**—You were planned for God’s pleasure
- **Fellowship**—You were formed for God’s family
- **Discipleship**—You were created to become like Christ
- **Ministry**—You were shaped for serving God
- **Evangelism**—You were made for God’s mission

One of the lessons in life that everyone needs to learn is that it is “not all about us”. Until we accept this truth things can be very frustrating. In the study this week Paul applies this principle to three areas of our lives—marital status, our devotion to Christ, and our freedom in Him. To live effectively we must be subject to the needs of others as well as our own. In other words it’s not all about us. In the area of marital status Paul first encouraged singleness for those who had been gifted in this way, but viewed marriage as good, too. It is important for married Christians to fulfill their duty of meeting each other’s sexual needs and to stop depriving each other of this gift. This would also enable greater self-control in this area, so marriage can overcome uncontrol-

lable lust. Paul also told those who become single to remain so unless the one who leaves is an unbeliever; in that case they can remarry. However, if the unbeliever stays after the partner is saved God will bless the entire family because of the believer. This guidance was part of a larger emphasis on remaining in the condition in which one was saved, whether circumcised or not, slave or free, married or single. Out of this Paul then showed the value of singleness because it enabled single adults to be focused on their devotion to Christ. Since the world was in distress and the Lord’s return seemed near it made sense to not be distracted by marital duties. Paul’s opinion was that it was okay to marry, but remaining single was better. Finally, Paul addressed the issue of

Christian freedom, the freedom to love others since it’s not all about us. We are free to engage in practices like eating meat sacrificed to idols unless they cause our brother, who considers that a sin for him, to stumble. Mature Christians know that since there is only one true God false gods are real, so meat offered to them isn’t evil. This knowledge, though, should edify their brothers instead of causing them to sin. It is more important to act in love than to arrogantly express our freedom. In all these areas—marriage, devotion and freedom we must remember that it’s not all about us.

Study Questions for 1 Corinthians 7-8

(For answers go to [http://www.celebrationnet.com/abf/html/study questions](http://www.celebrationnet.com/abf/html/study%20questions))

<p>1. Read 1 Cor 7:1-6. What 2 practices does Paul support (v1, 2)? What does he direct partners in marriage to do (v3, 5) and why (v4, 5)? What “concession” (v6) is Paul making and why (see v2)?</p>	
<p>2. From 7:7-9 what marital status does Paul encourage (v7, 8), but what does he understand (v7)? What does he allow to those who are single and why (v9)? Is singleness or being married better for serving Christ?</p>	
<p>3. In 7:10-16 what does Jesus instruct through Paul (v10-11—see Matt 19:3-9)? What does Paul add to this (v12-13) and why (v14)? What else does he allow (v15) and why (v16)?</p>	

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I Corinthians 7-8 - Daily Study Questions (cont)

4. Looking at 1 Cor 7:17-24 what was Paul's guidance (v17, 20, 24)? What were his examples (v18, 21) and why (v19, 22-23)? What does this look like today?

5. Based on 7:25-31 what does Paul advise "virgins" about getting married (v25-27), but what if they do (v28)? What are his reasons here for remaining single (v28, 29-31)?

6. Using 7:32-35 what other advantage is given for remaining single (v32-33, 34)? What is the guiding principle for both single and married Christians (v35)? Apply.

7. From 7:36-40 what does Paul allow dads to do without guilt (v36, 38)? Which is okay and which is the best (v38)? What is Paul's instruction about remarriage (v39-40)?

8. Read 8:1-3. What effect does "knowledge" have on Christians (v1, 2) and what is the better way (v1, 3)? What is the best knowledge (v3)?

9. According to 8:4-8 to what specific knowledge is Paul referring (v4-5)? Describe the true God (v6). What happens to those ignorant of this (v7), but what is the truth (v8)?

10. In 8:9-13 how should we use our freedom to eat meat sacrificed to idols (v9, 13) and why (v10-12)? Give an example of this today in your life.

11 Using 1 Cor 7-8 how would you summarize Paul's teaching on marriage and singleness (7:1-16)? What is the goal of every Christian (7:35) and where do you need to apply this in your life? Finally, define the correct use of our Christian freedom (8:1, 13) and how to do this.

Scripture to Remember

"If anyone supposes that he knows anything, he has not yet known as he ought to know; but if anyone loves God, he is known by Him."

1 Corinthians 8:2-3 (NASB)

Celebration Fellowship

Help—Hope—Healing

We're on the web

www.thehospitalchurch.com

Life Group Questions—Acting Out the Great Exchange (Acts 12)

(Using questions from Sunday's sermon, Life Groups meet in homes to build supportive relationships with others at Celebration Fellowship, helping us to grow in Christ.)

1. Open by sharing what type of negotiator you are—pay the price, offer low, willing to haggle, walk away, etc. How do you "negotiate" with God?
2. Scan Acts 16 and review the various things that happened there that required God's strength for Paul. When have you experienced God's exchange of His strength for your weakness?
3. Discuss what it means to "give up your rights" and how Paul and Christ did it? When should you do this, and when should you not?
4. Talk about the "right to self-determination" - why is this so important to us? How do we recognize the voice of the Spirit's direction instead? Give personal examples.
5. What spiritual battles did Paul face in Philippi? What do we face regularly and do we think of it this way? Why or why not? How can we get better at this so we can call on God's strength?
6. Discuss the reality of suffering for a Christian and the forms it takes. Why does God allow this? Talk about how to receive God's strength when we suffer. Be specific.
7. If time permits, talk about anything else meaningful from the message.