

**The Question Concerning Marriage:
Should Christian Virgins and Widows Marry?
1 Corinthians 07: 25–40**

1 *This passage is a judgment of Paul's, not a direct commandment of the Lord*

2 *Concern 1: Consider the "present crisis" of the world*

- a. Paul's judgment:
Stay in your present marital status
 - 1) Remain married
 - 2) Remain single
- b. Paul's view:
Marriage is normal; it is not sin
 - 1) It is affected by world conditions
 - 2) It does add responsibility

3 *Concern 2: Know the time is short*

- a. Be detached
from earthly circumstances
- b. Do not be engrossed in the world —
it passes away

4 *Concern 3: Be without anxiety and distressing care*

- a. The unmarried man is more likely
to be anxious for the Lord
- b. The married man is more likely
to be anxious for his spouse
- c. The virgin is more likely to be
anxious for the Lord
- d. The wife is more likely to be
anxious for her spouse

25 Now about virgins: I have no command from the Lord, but I give a judgment as one who by the Lord's mercy is trustworthy.

26 Because of the present crisis, I think that it is good for you to remain as you are.

27 Are you married?
Do not seek a divorce.
Are you unmarried?
Do not look for a wife.

28 But if you do marry, you have not sinned; and if a virgin marries, she has not sinned. But those who marry will face many troubles in this life, and I want to spare you this.

29 What I mean, brothers, is that the time is short. From now on those who have wives should live as if they had none;

30 Those who mourn, as if they did not; those who are happy, as if they were not; those who buy something, as if it were not theirs to keep;

31 Those who use the things of the world, as if not engrossed in them. For this world in its present form is passing away.

32 I would like you to be free from concern. An unmarried man is concerned about the Lord's affairs — how he can please the Lord.

33 But a married man is concerned about the affairs of this world — how he can please his wife —

34 And his interests are divided. An unmarried woman or virgin is concerned about the Lord's affairs: Her aim is to be devoted to the Lord in both body and spirit. But a married woman is concerned about the affairs of this world — how she can please her husband.

5 Concern 4:
Give undivided devotion to the Lord

- a. Not intended to restrain liberty
- b. To show the best thing
in the present crisis

6 Conclusion:
***In light of the present crisis
several instructions are advisable***

- a. The believer should marry
— if necessary
- b. The believer should not marry
— if he can control
- c. The believer should know
that not marrying is best
- d. The contract of marriage is for life
- e. The Christian widow or widower...
 - 1) Is to marry only a Christian
 - 2) Is more blessed to remain single

35 I am saying this for your own good,
not to restrict you,
but that you may live in a right way
in undivided devotion to the Lord.

36 If anyone thinks he is acting improperly
toward the virgin he is engaged to,
and if she is getting along in years
and he feels he ought to marry,
he should do as he wants.
He is not sinning. They should get married.

37 But the man who has settled the matter in his own mind,
who is under no compulsion
but has control over his own will,
and who has made up his mind not to marry the virgin —
this man also does the right thing.

38 So then, he who marries the virgin does right,
but he who does not marry her does even better.

39 A woman is bound to her husband as long as he lives.
But if her husband dies,
she is free to marry anyone she wishes,
but he must belong to the Lord.

40 In my judgment,
she is happier if she stays as she is
— and I think that I too have the Spirit of God.