REMAIN IN GOD’S CALLING

1 Corinthians 7:1–40

Key Verse: 7:17

1. What had the Corinthians written Paul previously, and why would they be thinking such a thing? (1) How does Paul answer, and why is abstinence within marriage wrong? (2–4) Under what circumstances does he make a concession? (5,6) What gifts does Paul mention, and how would this help? (7)
2. What is the alternate translation of “unmarried” (8a), what does Paul say to these people, and what does he mean? (8b,9) Whom does he address next, and what does he say to them? (10) Why was this the Lord’s “command”? (Mt19:6) Why might Paul especially be addressing wives? What options does he give them, and why? (11)
3. Who are “the rest,” why might they be in this situation, and what does Paul tell them to do? (12,13) What is his reason, and what does this mean? (14) What exception does he make, and why? (15) What hope can a believer have for an unbelieving spouse? (16)
4. Read verse 17. What does it mean to be “assigned” or “called” to a life situation? To “live as a believer” in it? How and why does Paul emphasize this? (17b) What first example does he give? (18) Why? (19) What “commands” does he mean? What does he repeat? (20) How does the illustration of slaves help us understand? (21–24)
5. What next group does Paul address, what advice does he give them, and why? (25–28) How does he teach us all to live in this world, and what does he mean? (29–31) How might our interests become divided, and how can we overcome this? (32–35) What options does he give an unmarried man? (36–38) A widow? (39,40)