

Summit Woods Baptist Church  
First Corinthians Sermon Study Equipping Class

1 Corinthians 7:25-35

Remember to begin your study early in the week so that you have time to really think (and keep thinking) about the passage without being rushed.

❖ Day 1

Read 1 Corinthians 7:25-35.

For these lessons, the sermon text is provided in a format that visually helps display the structure of the paragraph or section of text. The verbs are underlined. The main clauses remain to the left, and the supporting clauses are either directly underneath when they have equal priority to what comes before, or are tabbed to the right when the clause supports, develops or explains previous clauses.

<sup>25</sup>Now concerning the betrothed, I have no command from the Lord,  
but I give my judgment

as one who by the Lord's mercy is trustworthy.

<sup>26</sup>I think that in view of the present distress  
it is good for a person to remain as he is.

<sup>27</sup>Are you bound to a wife?

Do not seek to be free.

Are you free from a wife?

Do not seek a wife.

<sup>28</sup>But if you do marry,  
you have not sinned,  
and if a betrothed woman marries,  
she has not sinned.

Yet those who marry will have worldly troubles,  
and I would spare you that.

<sup>29</sup>This is what I mean, brothers:

the appointed time has grown very short.

From now on, let those who have wives live as though they had none,

<sup>30</sup>and those who mourn as though they were not mourning,

and those who rejoice as though they were not rejoicing,

and those who buy as though they had no goods,

<sup>31</sup>and those who deal with the world as though they had no dealings with it.

For the present form of this world is passing away.

<sup>32</sup>I want you to be free from anxieties.

The unmarried man is anxious about the things of the Lord, how to please the Lord.

<sup>33</sup>But the married man is anxious about worldly things, how to please his wife,

<sup>34</sup>and his interests are divided.

And the unmarried or betrothed woman is anxious about the things of the Lord,  
how to be holy in body and spirit.

But the married woman is anxious about worldly things, how to please her husband.

<sup>35</sup>I say this for your own benefit,

not to lay any restraint upon you,

but to promote good order

and to secure your undivided devotion to the Lord.

Summit Woods Baptist Church  
First Corinthians Sermon Study Equipping Class

1. Who is Paul addressing in this week's passage?
2. According to verse 25, we see that Paul does not have a direct teaching of Jesus from which to draw regarding the betrothed. What authority does he claim for giving his judgment on the matter?
3. In one phrase, what is Paul's judgment? In which verse did you find your answer?
4. Do those who choose to go against Paul's recommendation sin? From where in the text do you get your answer?
5. According to verses 28b and 32, what is Paul's desire?
6. What ultimate outcome does Paul seek to achieve through his advice? From where in the text did you get your answer?

❖ Day 2

Read 1 Corinthians 7:25-35 again.

7. How does Paul's statement about the unmarried woman in verse 34 elaborate on what he means by "how to please the Lord" in verse 32?

Summit Woods Baptist Church  
First Corinthians Sermon Study Equipping Class

8. How does “holy in body and spirit” help to correct the Corinthians’ wrong thinking about the separation of the physical and the spiritual? (Remember the lesson and sermon on 1 Corinthians 6:12-20.)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
9. Is it a guarantee that all unmarried people are concerned about and focused on pleasing the Lord?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
10. What are some wrong or selfish motivations that a person might have for remaining unmarried?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
11. What anxieties does he say the married person has? And what does he say this results in?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
12. Does this mean that a married person’s divided attentions are a sin against God? What in the passage helps you answer?

❖ Day 3

Read 1 Corinthians 7:25-35 again.

13. Look again at verses 29-31. According to the passage, what state of affairs is causing Paul to endorse such behavior as not marrying?

# First Corinthians Sermon Study Equipping Class

14. How do we know that Paul is speaking poetically/metaphorically in verses 29-31? (What has Paul said elsewhere in 1 Corinthians and his other writings that tell us that he is not advocating for complete abandonment of these things or for isolation from real life?)

15. Describe what it might look like to “buy as though they had no goods” and “deal with the world as though they had no dealings with it.”

16. Based on verses 29-31, where does he want their focus to be? What perspective/attitude does Paul want them to have? (Think about Paul's efforts earlier in 1 Corinthians to point them away from worldly wisdom and an earthly/temporal perspective.)

17. Are there any areas of your life where you have not been operating with an eternal and Godward perspective? How would an eternal perspective change the way you approach those things?

Summit Woods Baptist Church  
First Corinthians Sermon Study Equipping Class

18. What dealings with the world can you cut out in order to make room for more closely following Jesus?

19. Summarize the passage in one or two sentences. (Be sure to include the heart attitudes Paul is advocating and not just the actions.)

In preparation for Sunday, pray that we would have an increased awareness of the temporary nature of the world and that we would live in light of this awareness in every area of our lives, seeking to be fully devoted to the Lord.