

Summit Woods Baptist Church
First Corinthians Sermon Study Equipping Class

1 Corinthians 7:36-40 and Spring 2017 Review

This homework set includes a few questions to help you think through 1 Corinthians 7:36-40 and then several questions to help you reflect upon all that you have learned from 1 Corinthians so far.

Due to the Summer Equipping Class schedule, we will **not** have a class discussion over 1 Corinthians 7:36-40 before Pastor Bret's June 4th sermon. We hope that you will engage in one of the three wonderful classes being offered this Summer.

❖ 1 Corinthians 7:36-40

Read 1 Corinthians 7:36-40.

Scholars and translators disagree on exactly how to translate verses 36-38, whether the man who "thinks that he is not behaving properly" is referring to the betrothed man or to the betrothed young woman's father. The ESV takes the view that Paul is addressing the betrothed man's assessment of his relationship with the woman to whom he is betrothed. The NASB takes that view that Paul is addressing the young woman's father who "thinks that he is not behaving properly toward his virgin *daughter*." While this may seem strange to us, it is in keeping with the arranged marriages of the first century, where the young woman's father acted on her behalf in securing a marriage partner. The words translated 'his betrothed' (ESV) and 'his virgin daughter' (NASB) are simply 'his virgin' in the Greek. With either translation, Paul's point is the same. As he has said throughout chapter 7, neither marrying nor remaining unmarried is a sin. Paul says that the one who marries "does well," and in keeping with his stated preference for singleness, he says that the one who does not marry "will do even better."

1. How do Paul's qualifications in verse 37 (firmly established heart, under no necessity, determined heart, etc.) influence your understanding of this passage and of his instructions throughout chapter 7?

2. In verse 39, the only requirement Paul gives for the woman who plans to remarry after her husband has died is that she marry a believer, one who is "in the Lord." What are some other things that people might add to a "requirements list"?

Summit Woods Baptist Church
First Corinthians Sermon Study Equipping Class

- a. What do you think Paul would say about those additional requirements?

- b. Why do you think he only gave one requirement?

❖ Personal Reflection

Look back at 1 Corinthians 7.

- 3. Throughout chapter 7, Paul gave similar instructions to a variety of people. Summarize the gist of his advice.
 - a. List all of the people to whom he gave this similar advice.

- 4. Note that he applies the principles to more than just marriage (see verses 17-24 & 29-31). How/where can you apply these principles in your own life?

Summit Woods Baptist Church

First Corinthians Sermon Study Equipping Class

Look back at 1 Corinthians 1-7. Also look back at your Equipping Class notes and sermon notes from the past several months.

5. For each chapter, write down a short summary phrase.

6. What have you learned about God?

7. What have you learned about mankind?

8. What have you learned about the church?

Summit Woods Baptist Church
First Corinthians Sermon Study Equipping Class

9. In what ways has the Lord used our study in 1 Corinthians to convict you or to expose an error in your thinking?

10. In what ways has the Lord used our study in 1 Corinthians to encourage you?

11. List at least one way that you have already applied something that you learned from 1 Corinthians this year.

12. List at least one way that you can apply what you have learned from 1 Corinthians in the next few weeks.

13. With whom will you share what you have been learning?

Pray that we would not forget the things we have learned from 1 Corinthians so far but that we would be shaped by God's Word and live in obedience to our Lord.