

1 Corinthians 7:25-40.

Three Reasons Virgin's Should Not Marry...
But They Do Not Sin If They Do.

1 Corinthians Outline.

I. Introduction (1:1-9).

II. Bad Reports (1:10-6:20).

A. About Divisions and Boasting (1:10-4:21).

B. About Specific Immorality (5).

C. About Lawsuits (6:1-8).

D. About General Immorality (6:9-20).

III. Answers to Questions (7:1-15:58).

I. About Marriage, Singleness, and Divorce (7).

II. About Liberty (8-10).

III. About Public Worship (11-14).

IV. About the Resurrection (15).

IV. Various Closing Instructions & Greetings (16:1-24).

The Question.

- Paul has already dealt with the married, singles, divorce, and remarriage in chapter 7.
- *“Now concerning virgins...”*
 - The question may have read: “Is it a good idea for a virgin to get married?”
- *“I have no command of the Lord, but I give an opinion...”*
 - Although Paul makes it clear this is his opinion, we must keep two things in mind:
 1. The Lord has made Paul trustworthy (1Cor. 7:25).
 2. All scripture is inspired by God (2Tim. 3:16).

The Answer.

*“I think then that this is good in view of the present distress,
that **it is good for a man to remain as he is.***

Are you bound to a wife? Do not seek to be released.

Are you released from a wife? Do not seek a wife.

But if you marry, you have not sinned;

and if a virgin marries, she has not sinned.

*Yet such will have trouble in this life,
and I am trying to spare you.”*

1Corinthians 7:26-28.

- Paul is going to now give three reasons he believes virgins should remain single, but will say 4 times that they have not sinned if they do (vs. 28, 36, 38, 39).

3 Reasons To Stay Single.

1. "...*this present distress...*" could be a local famine or disease, or reaction to the Paul's persecution (2Cor. 11:23-27).
2. "...*time has been shortened...*"
 - Marriage - "*Those who have wives...*"
 - Misery - "*Those who weep...*"
 - Joy - "*Those who rejoice...*"
 - Possessions - "*Those who buy...*"
 - Worldly Accomplishments - "*Those who use the world...*"
3. "...*I want you to be free from concern...*"
 - One who is unmarried is concerned about the Lord.
 - One who is married is concerned about their spouse.

Clarifications.

- Concerning virgins:
 - *“acting unbecomingly”* and she is *“past her youth”* it is not sinful if you marry.
 - *“he who stands firm”* and does not marry *“will do well.”*
 - Both those who marry and those who don't marry are not in sin.
- Concerning widows:
 - You are bound to your spouse as long as they live, and if your spouse dies you are free to remarry.
 - Paul believes you will be happier if you remain single.