1 CORINTHIANS 7b

**LIVE AS YOU ARE CALLED**

17 But as God has distributed to each one, as the Lord has called each one, so let him walk. And so I ordain in all the churches. 18 Was anyone called while circumcised? **JEWISH** Let him not become uncircumcised. Was anyone called while uncircumcised? Let him not be circumcised. 19 Circumcision is nothing (**Spiritually**) and uncircumcision is nothing, but keeping the commandments of God *is what matters.*

* **John 14:15** – “If you love Me, keep My commandments.” Jesus
* **We keep adding to and taking away from salvation when we add or subtract our personal preferences from salvation** … Be very careful NOT to!

**REMAIN!**

20 Let each one **remain** in the same calling in which he was called. **(Saved)**

21 Were you called *while* a slave? Do not be concerned about it; but if you can be made free, rather use *it.* 22 For he who is called in the Lord *while* a slave is the Lord's freedman. Likewise he who is called *while* free is Christ's slave.

23 You were bought at a price; do not become slaves of men.

24 Brethren, let each one **remain** with God in that *state* in which he was called.

* **It seems like the Apostle is making a point here, right? REMAIN! Do not seek to be divorced… Remain in your marriage.**

**THE UNMARRIED AND THE WIDOWED**

25 Now concerning virgins: **(Fiancés)** I have no commandment from the Lord; yet **I give judgment** as one whom the Lord in His mercy *has made* trustworthy.

26 I suppose therefore that this is good because of the present distress— **(Government persecution)** that *it is* good for a man to remain as he is: ***(Single)*** 27 Are you bound to a wife? Do not seek to be loosed. Are you loosed from a wife? Do not seek a wife. **IE, It will be easier to flee persecution while single**

**SINGLE MINDED**

28 But even if you do marry, you have not sinned; and if a virgin marries, she has not sinned. Nevertheless such will have trouble in the flesh, but I would spare you. **Having to watch your family suffer**

**FOCUS…**

29 But this I say, brethren, the time *is* short, so that from now on even those who have wives should be as though they had none, **(IE, keep Christ #1)** 30 those who weep as though they did not weep, those who rejoice as though they did not rejoice, those who buy as though they did not possess, 31 and those who use this world as not misusing *it.* For the form of this world is passing away.

* **Don’t indulge yourself in sorrows…**
* **Don’t indulge yourself in celebrations…**
* **Don’t become distracted with possessions…**
* **Don’t get caught up in worldly things…** **Your stuff will burn someday.**

**WHAT DISTRACTS YOU FROM GOD?**

32 But I want you to be without care. **(Distractions)**

…He who is unmarried cares for the things of the Lord—how he may please the Lord. **The single believer has more time for the Lord.**

33 But he who is married cares about the things of the world—how he may please *his* wife. **AS HE SHOULD, but NOT to the neglect of serving the Lord.**

* LESSON – DO NOT become distracted from serving the Lord!
* This is why it is SO important to have a spouse who serves Jesus too!

34 There is a difference between a wife and a virgin. **UNMARRIED** The unmarried woman cares about the things of the Lord, that she may be holy both in body and in spirit. But she who is married cares about the things of the world—how she may please *her* husband.

35 And this I say for your own profit, not that I may put a leash on you, but for what is proper, and that you may serve the Lord without distraction.

* Married or single, Paul says, serve the Lord without distraction!

36 But if any man thinks he is behaving improperly toward his virgin, **(Fiancé)** if she is past the flower of youth, and thus it must be, let him do what he wishes. He does not sin; let them marry.

* Staying unmarried is not a calling for everyone… It is better to get married honorably than to lust and behave sinfully.

37 Nevertheless he who stands steadfast in his heart, having no necessity, but has power over his own will, and has so determined in his heart that he will keep his virgin, **(Celibacy)** does well.

* Paul still believes his calling to remain celibate is best…

38 So then he who gives *her* in marriage does well, but he who does not give *her* in marriage does better.

39 A wife is bound by law as long as her husband lives; but if her husband dies, she is at liberty to be married to whom she wishes, only in the Lord. 40 But she is happier if she remains as she is, according to my judgment—and I think I also have the Spirit of God.

As a single man I loved to camp and fish… I needed very little. I had a backpack, a sleeping bag, and mess kit, some wooden matches and a canteen. I would pack some cans of beans and chili, some bacon, a few eggs… And a fishing pole.

As soon as Lynette and I married I wanted to share this wonderful experience with her. Our first weekend camping trip lasted about three hours… We still camp too, but we are on our 8th or 9th RV since that first, AND LAST backpacking trip?

I have learned that a happy wife… means a good life!

It might sound like Paul would have all servants of the Lord stay single… That IS NOT what he said… He said, Keep Christ first!