

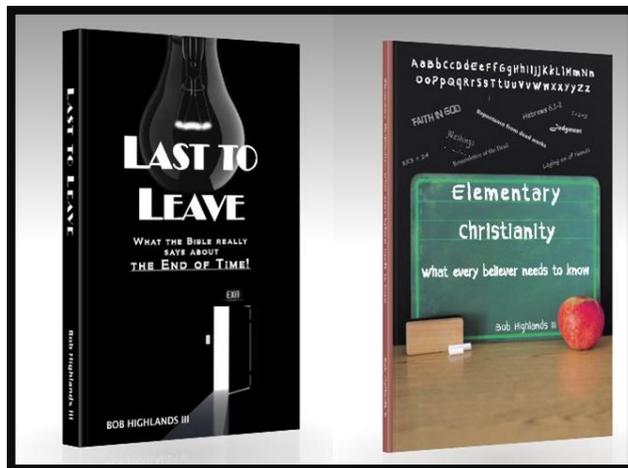
## **1 Corinthians Study Guide**

- Introduction: 1 Corinthians 1.1-9
- Problem ONE: 1 Corinthians 1.10-4.21
- Problem TWO: 1 Corinthians 5.1-13
- Problem THREE: 1 Corinthians 6.1-20
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## **THE FOURTH PROBLEM IN THE CHURCH AT CORINTH**

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 The translation quoted here is the New International Version (NIV)*

### **Personal Convictions or the Word of God?**

Remember Paul and the Church at Corinth were exchanging a series of letters. Here Paul is responding to a letter he had received from the believers at Corinth. We do not have the letter from them to Paul but, we know a lot about what these other letters contained because of his response.

To understand this lesson and what Paul is telling them you need to be aware of how he handles such matters. Paul is very careful to delineate between his personal opinions and the Word of God. In each of the following verses list if it is Paul's opinion or the word of God. In each case how do you know?

### **1 Corinthians 7**

- ♦ VS. 6     Paul's Opinion    or     The Word of God  
 How do you Know? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
- ♦ Vs. 7     Paul's Opinion    or     The Word of God  
 How do you Know? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
- ♦ Vs. 8     Paul's Opinion    or     The Word of God  
 How do you Know? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

- ◆ Vs. 10    Paul's Opinion   or    The Word of God  
How do you know?\_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- ◆ Vs. 12    Paul's Opinion   or    The Word of God  
How do you know?\_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- ◆ Vs. 17    Paul's Opinion   or    The Word of God  
How do you know?\_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- ◆ Vs. 19    Paul's Opinion   or    The Word of God  
How do you know?\_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- ◆ Vs. 25    Paul's Opinion   or    The Word of God  
How do you know?\_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- ◆ Vs. 26    Paul's Opinion   or    The Word of God  
How do you know?\_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- ◆ Vs. 29    Paul's Opinion   or    The Word of God  
How do you know?\_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- ◆ Vs. 32    Paul's Opinion   or    The Word of God  
How do you know?\_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- ◆ Vs. 35    Paul's Opinion   or    The Word of God  
How do you know?\_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

- ◆ Why was this the better choice for Paul?

**Summing it all up**

- ◆ What was Paul's personal conviction about marriage and sexual relationships?
  
- ◆ How did Paul approach this when writing to the church at Corinth?
  
- ◆ In the end who is responsible for the decision about marrying or not marrying?
  
- ◆ Which one is the better choice? (careful this is a trick question)

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to be saying one way was better but both ways were acceptable.

- ◆ Vs. 36 What was a father allowed to do without any fear of sinning or doing something wrong?
- ◆ Vs. 37 What would Paul prefer the father do for his daughter? Why?
- ◆ Vs. 38 How does Paul show his personal preference and convictions without causing a division in the church?

#### **Directions at the death of a spouse**

- ◆ Vs. 39 If a spouse dies what is a person permitted to do if they want to?
- ◆ What is the one clear restriction Paul puts on such a marriage? (note Paul will have to explain or clarify this later in his fourth letter. See 2 Corinthians 6.14)
- ◆ Vs. 40 Even though he has said it is alright, what does he think is the better choice?

- ◆ Vs. 40  Paul's Opinion or  The Word of God  
How do you know? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

- ◆ What conclusions can you draw from this concerning the opinions of Paul and The Word of God?
- ◆ How could this be beneficial in determining the difference between personal convictions and commands or directions for all Christian believers found in the Word of God?

#### **Paul's View of The World**

Before looking at the problem and how Paul handles it we need to see why Paul feels the way he does. This greatly influenced his answer and will help us understand his point of view.

- ◆ Vs. 26 What is happening that is causing Paul to think the way he does?

- ◆ Vs. 31 What does Paul think about the end of Time and why would this effect how he answers their questions?

### **The Question of Marriage and Sex for Believers**

#### **Read 1 Corinthians 7.1-40<sup>NASB</sup>**

Vs. 1 How does Paul feel a man should approach sexual relations with a woman?

- ◆ Vs. 2 From Paul's point of view why should people get married.
- ◆ Vss. 3-5 How should a couple see their relationship when it comes to making each other happy?
- ◆ What would this have to do with avoiding or prevention immoral behavior?

Apparently some of them had started or more correctly stopped having sexual relationship with their spouse because they felt it was unspiritual and wrong. Paul guides them in this matter.

- ◆ Vss. 29-31 How does this advice here seem contrary to the advice he gave in vss. 2-5?

- ◆ Would it be easier for Paul to do this than it would be some other people? Why?

- ◆ How does Paul's personal convictions influence the way he approaches this matter?

#### **Directions about the responsibilities of marriage**

- ◆ Vss. 32-34 What is the difference between a married and an unmarried believer?
- ◆ Which one does Paul see as being closer to the Lord in their spiritual relationship?
- ◆ Vs. 35 Why does Paul think it is better to be unmarried as a believer?

#### **Direction concerning unmarried daughters**

In the first century parents were responsible for arranging marriages for their children, especially their daughters. What was a Christian father supposed to do? Paul seemed

- ◆ Vs. 24 In the end what is Paul's simple solution to the matter about being a slave and following Christ?

**Directions about those who have not been married**

- ◆ Vs. 25 What does Paul want to make clear up front here?
- ◆ Vs. 26 What is Paul's recommendation? What reason does he Give?
- ◆ Vs. 27 How is Paul's advice here much like his advice in verses 20 and 24?
- ◆ Vs. 28 Should Paul's advice stop anyone from doing something different?
- ◆ What does Paul think getting married could do for the life of the believer?
- ◆ Vs. 29 and vs. 30 Why does Paul take the position on getting married that he does?

- ◆ Vs. 6 What is the key reason married couples should not have sexual relations? (according to Paul)

- ◆ How long should this last?

- ◆ Why should it not be permanent?

- ◆ Vs. 7 What is Paul's personal conviction concerning marriage and sexual relationships?

**Directions to Widows and unmarried**

- ◆ Vss. 8-9 How does Paul think they should approach the thought of getting married?
- ◆ What reason does Paul give for their getting married?
- ◆ Can you think of other reasons why people might want to get married?

### **Directions to those already Married**

- ♦ Vss. 10-11 What is the key direction Paul gives to those who are married when they become a believer?
  
- ♦ What does he base this on?

### **Directions to those married to a non-believer**

- ♦ Vss. 12-15 How should the believer view their marriage to a non-believer?
  
- ♦ What should they do if the non-believer leaves or divorces them?
  
- ♦ What is the key benefit of a believer to his/her spouse and children?
  
- ♦ What do you think this means?
  
- ♦ Vs. 16 What is the ultimate goal of such a marriage?

### **Directions to those who are becoming a believer**

Paul is writing to a diverse church made up of both former Jews and Gentiles. They were not sure if they should follow the rules of Judaism or if they were leaving everything Jewish behind and become a Gentile believer.

- ♦ Vss. 17-19 What directions did Paul give believers concerning physical changes for religious reasons? Why did he give them this guidance?
  
- ♦ Vs. 20 What was Paul's simple solution?

### **Directions to those who are Slaves**

Slavery was prevalent and commonly accepted in the first century. It is estimated 35-40% of all those living in Italy were slaves and throughout the Roman Empire it was around 15% of the population. So what should a person do who is converted to Christianity and is a slave?

- ♦ Vss. 21-22 What attitude should the slave take about their life as a follower of Jesus?
  
- ♦ Vs. 23 If a person was not a slave before becoming a Christian does Paul think they should become one after accepting Christ? Why?