

*To the Married and
Unmarried...*

The Bible Gives Advice
and Instructions...

*Based on your experience or observing the
experience of others, what are your thoughts
about the institution of marriage?*



Categories of Marital Status

- **Single** (Never married)
- **Separated** (Married, but not living together)
- **Married** (Currently in a Marriage and living with your spouse).
- **Divorced** (Married before, but not anymore)
- **Widowed** (Married before, but your spouse has died).

*What does the Bible say to us
about our marital status?*

*The union between man and woman
was intended to be good...*

Genesis 2: 20-24



Man and Woman...Together.

- *The Lord saw that something was missing in Adam's life.*
- *He created Eve to be a mate and a helper for Adam.*
- *Eve was created from Adam's rib, which signifies oneness.*
- *God presented Adam with a gift. Eve was God's gift made especially for Adam and the relationship was intended to be good.*



How could something intended to be so right...go so wrong?

When we look at marital relationships today, how can two people who once loved each other enough to get married end up in such conflict with each other?

Being yoked together means that you must travel in the same direction. If you are unequally yoked, you have two people who really want to go in different directions and that can cause major conflict in a marriage.

- 2 Corinthians 6:14



I Corinthians 7 *Advice on Marital Status...*

- Verses 1-2
 - So much immorality. *When Paul speaks of so much immorality he is speaking about fornication amongst single people. His advice to them is to get married if they cannot control themselves.*
- Verses 3-5
 - Fulfill the marital duty. Your body is not your own. *In a marriage, you must share your body with your spouse. It is not your own anymore. Your spouse needs your body to fulfill their sexual desires.*
- Verses 6-7
 - Everyone has their own gift. *The gift of celibacy is indeed a gift. It is rare to not have sexual desires.*
- Verses 8-9
 - According to scripture, is getting married because you can't control your sexual desire a good reason to marry? *Yes, it appears that Paul is saying that to successfully avoid fornication that one should marry.*

I Corinthians 7

The Bible Gives Instructions on Marriage...

- Verses 10-11
 - The Bible says do not separate and do not divorce. *What does this tell us about the importance of choosing the right mate? (Matthew 5: 31-32)*
 - *Life Lesson: You must be very thoughtful when choosing your mate because the Lord expects that you will be with that person for life, except for marital unfaithfulness.*
- Verses 12-16
 - The Bible instructs us to stay married even if the person is an unbeliever. **Questions for Thought:** *What is an unbeliever? Who falls into that category? How do we convince our spouses to improve their relationship with the Lord?*

I Corinthians 7

Some Perspective for Singles...

- Verse 27
 - The Bible says we should stay in our current situation and that the unmarried should not “look” for marriage. *Many single people crave marriage. The Bible says that single people would be better off single...unless they cannot control their sexual desire.*
- Verse 28
 - What is the Bible telling us about marriage?
 - **Question for Thought:** What does Paul mean about marriage “troubles?”

I Corinthians 7

To the Singles and Widowed...

- Verse 32-35

Questions for Thought:

- *Is it better to be married or unmarried? What about devotion to the Lord versus devotion to another person? What does being devoted to God in body and spirit mean for the unmarried person?*

- Verse 39

- The widowed may remarry...but their potential spouse must belong to the Lord. *Does being single really make a person happier?*

Next time you are looking for marital advice...

Next time you give someone advice on their marriage...

Consult the Word of God...