

PRECEPT  
UPON  
PRECEPT

# *1 Corinthians*

PART 2

# 1 CORINTHIANS

## PART 2

### PRECEPT UPON PRECEPT

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## HELPFUL STUDY TOOLS

ARTHUR, KAY

**How to Study Your Bible Precept Upon Precept**

*Eugene, Oregon: Harvest House Publishers, 1994.*

**Greek Word Study Tools**

**Commentaries on I Corinthians**

*(See commentary list below.)*

## RECOMMENDED COMMENTARIES

BAXTER, J. SIDLOW

**Explore the Book**

*Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan Publishing House, 1960.*

MARE, W. HAROLD AND HARRIS, MURREY J.

**I&2 Corinthians. The Expositor's Bible Commentary**

*Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan Publishing House, 1995.*

MORRIS, LEON

**I Corinthians. Tyndale New Testament Commentaries**

*Grand Rapids, Michigan: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1985.*



## LESSON ONE — 1 Corinthians 7:1-16

THIS LESSON  
INCORPORATES

Observation Worksheets on 1 Corinthians 1-7, located in the Appendix  
Word Studies

**Questions, questions!**

**Crucial questions, timely questions, pertinent questions!**

**Where can we find answers we can trust?**

**Christianity introduces believers into a whole new lifestyle, a life now lived by the Spirit rather than by the natural reasonings of our mind and the inclinations of our fleshly desires. It is a life lived according to the mind of God, the wisdom of God. Thus, once we become believers, all sorts of questions arise, and we find ourselves and others asking, What about \_\_\_\_\_? Hang on, Beloved, you're about to find some answers to those questions!**

DAY  
ONE  
AND  
DAY  
TWO

1. Possibly you have just joined our study on this timely and much needed epistle of 1 Corinthians. If so, we welcome you to a study which can be revolutionary in your walk and intimacy with your Lord and Master Jesus Christ. If you studied 1 Corinthians, Part 1, welcome back!

Whether or not you studied 1 Corinthians, Part 1, it would be advantageous for you to read through the first segment of 1 Corinthians: chapters 1-6. Color or mark every reference to the recipients in a distinctive way. Just slowing down enough to do this will help you get a better understanding of the recipients of Paul's letter.

As you read chapters 1-6, record in the space below the main themes (topics or subjects) covered in each chapter. If you have not studied 1 Corinthians, Part 1, this assignment will put you into context and help you appreciate the situation in Corinth. Be sure to look carefully at 1 Corinthians 1:10-11 and 5:1 to see what this part of the book is about. You have two days for this assignment so you might want to take a break after chapter 3.

**Chapter 1**

**Chapter 2**

**Chapter 3**

**Chapter 4**

**Chapter 5**

**Chapter 6**

2. Now that you have finished reading and recording the themes of these chapters, read 1 Corinthians 7:1 and note below how chapter 7 begins.

3. Read 1 Corinthians 1:10-11 and 5:1. What two reasons does Paul give for writing to the Corinthians:

**Reason for chapters 1-6**

**Reason for chapters 7-16**

4. In chapters 1-6 Paul deals with problems (schisms, divisions, quarrels) that have brought divisions among the people. In 1 Corinthians 7:1 you notice a change in the direction and content of Paul's letter. The phrase, "Now concerning . . ." will become a repeated phrase from chapters 7 through 16. Mark this phrase in 1 Corinthians 7:1 in a distinctive way that is easy to spot. Then read the following Scriptures in 1 Corinthians, and next to each reference note how the chapter begins and the subject it introduces. Mark the introduction to each new subject in the same way that you marked 1 Corinthians 7:1.

a. 1 Corinthians 8:1

b. 1 Corinthians 12:1

c. 1 Corinthians 15:1

d. 1 Corinthians 16:1

*These, dear student, are the topics we are going to study in depth over the next eight weeks, and we promise it will be a most profitable and practical study that will prepare you for the church's critical role in the coming years . . . how ever many years they may be! Study well and study prayerfully. Always come to the Word of God in complete dependence upon the Spirit of God. He delights to reveal Himself and His truth to those who seek for Him and search for Him with all their hearts.*

DAY  
THREE

1. Now then, let's begin our study of 1 Corinthians 7, a chapter which contains a wealth of information regarding marriage, divorce, and remarriage that will be helpful not only to you but to the body of Christ.

Read through 1 Corinthians 7 simply to familiarize yourself with the content of this chapter.

2. Now read 1 Corinthians 6:12-7:40.
  - a. Watch for the word "immorality(ies)" and mark it in a distinctive way.
  - b. Also mark in a distinctive color or way each reference to "marry," "married," "marriage" and in another way, each occurrence of "unmarried." You might want to color them both the same way and then put a slash like this \ through unmarried. Whatever! That is simply a suggestion which has helped me when I mark opposites such as "righteous and unrighteous," "circumcised and uncircumcised," etc.

If you are new to Precept Upon Precept Bible studies, you will find it helpful to refer to "Focusing in on the Details" in *How to Study Your Bible Precept Upon Precept*.

- c. Did you notice another “now concerning” in the midst of chapter 7? If so, mark it the same way you marked it in your previous assignment this week.
3. Mark any other key words you observe in this chapter.

DAY  
FOUR

- 1. Let’s dig into the beginning of 1 Corinthians 7 and plumb its depths a little more. Read through 1 Corinthians 7:1-7 to search out and record the answers to the following questions:
  - a. What is the main topic, subject, theme that Paul is addressing in this paragraph?
  - b. Although Paul has taken a different track in his letter to the Corinthians, do you see any connection at all with 1 Corinthians 6:12-20? Record your observations.
  - c. What is Paul’s general instruction to men and to women in 1 Corinthians 7:1-2? (Note that I said men and women, not husbands and wives.) As you look at these instructions, note why he is giving them. What is the situation Paul is dealing with?

Men	Women

d. What is his instruction to husbands and to wives?

<b>The Husband</b>	<b>The Wife</b>

e. What does Paul wish?

f. What does Paul mean when he says each man has his “own gift from God”?  
When you answer this question, don’t ignore the context, the subject at hand.

---

**1 Corinthians, Part 2**

*Lesson 1, 1 Corinthians 7:1-16*

2. It is so common in the age in which we are living for people to have sex outside of marriage. Do the first nine verses give you any insight into this social issue? Would it be a moral issue? A spiritual issue? If so, on what basis?

*Well, Beloved, what have you learned for yourself so far this week? Have you gained any new insights? Is there anything you need to change in your thinking or in your actions? If you feel the freedom to write it down, it would be good. Then you would have a record of what God said that would serve as a reminder.*



3. Just for the sake of absolute clarity, look up the following words to get the definition of the original Greek word which is used in each instance. When you discover the Greek word, record it and its meaning. If you need help getting the definition of the Greek word, read “It’s All Greek to Me!” in *How to Study Your Bible Precept Upon Precept*.

a. Leave (depart, KJV) — 1 Corinthians 7:10,11,15

b. send away (put away, KJV) — 1 Corinthians 7:11,12,13

c. under bondage — 1 Corinthians 7:15

4. Next, look up “sanctified” which is used in 1 Corinthians 7:14.

a. Write out the Greek word and its meaning.

- b. How would you explain 1 Corinthians 7:14 in the light of what you have learned?
5. Now, in as thorough a way as possible without consulting anything but the text, what is 1 Corinthians 7:10-16 teaching regarding the following:
- a. Those who are married, in general?
- b. Those who are married to unbelievers?

---

**1 Corinthians, Part 2**

*Lesson 1, 1 Corinthians 7:1-16*

6. Now feel free to consult your commentaries, should you desire to do so. However, please don't read what they have to say beyond 1 Corinthians 7:16. You want to see truth for yourself before you get the insights and interpretations of others. Record in the space below what you learn from your commentaries. Note any differences in what you see. Also note any insights you may have missed but that you know are correct because you are familiar with the text.

Well, diligent student of the Word, has this been an insightful study? What do you know that you didn't know before? What questions, what feelings did this week's study invoke? Has God shown you any way you can use these precepts of life . . . anyone you need to share them with? You may want to jot some notes below. We'll leave you some room to do that.

*By the way, the staff of Precept Ministries at the home base, across the United States, Canada, and around the world want to thank you for studying with us. And we want to encourage you to press on as a faithful steward of the mysteries of God. It's a wisdom the church, along with the world, so desperately needs. Be strong and courageous.*

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# 1 CORINTHIANS

## Observation Worksheet

### Chapter 1

#### Chapter Theme

*(Summary Statement of the Theme)*

---

- 1 Paul, called *as* an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Sosthenes our brother,
  - 2 to the church of God which is at Corinth, to those who have been sanctified in Christ Jesus, saints by calling, with all who in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, their *Lord* and ours:
  - 3 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
- 
- 4 I thank my God always concerning you, for the grace of God which was given you in Christ Jesus,
  - 5 that in everything you were enriched in Him, in all speech and all knowledge,
  - 6 even as the testimony concerning Christ was confirmed in you,
  - 7 so that you are not lacking in any gift, awaiting eagerly the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ,

8 who shall also confirm you to the end, blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

9 God is faithful, through whom you were called into fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

---

10 Now I exhort you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all agree, and there be no divisions among you, but you be made complete in the same mind and in the same judgment.

11 For I have been informed concerning you, my brethren, by Chloe's *people*, that there are quarrels among you.

12 Now I mean this, that each one of you is saying, "I am of Paul," and "I of Apollos," and "I of Cephas," and "I of Christ."

13 Has Christ been divided? Paul was not crucified for you, was he? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul?

14 I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius,

15 that no man should say you were baptized in my name.

16 Now I did baptize also the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized any other.

---

17 For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel, not in cleverness of speech, that the cross of Christ should not be made void.

---

18 For the word of the cross is to those who are perishing foolishness, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

19 For it is written,

“I WILL DESTROY THE WISDOM OF THE WISE,

AND THE CLEVERNESS OF THE CLEVER I WILL SET ASIDE.”

20 Where is the wise man? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?

21 For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not *come to* know God, God was well-pleased through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe.

22 For indeed Jews ask for signs, and Greeks search for wisdom;

23 but we preach Christ crucified, to Jews a stumbling block, and to Gentiles foolishness,

24 but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

25 Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

---

- 26 For consider your calling, brethren, that there were not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble;
- 27 but God has chosen the foolish things of the world to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to shame the things which are strong,
- 28 and the base things of the world and the despised, God has chosen, the things that are not, that He might nullify the things that are,
- 29 that no man should boast before God.
- 30 But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption,
- 31 that, just as it is written, “LET HIM WHO BOASTS, BOAST IN THE LORD.”

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# 1 CORINTHIANS

## Observation Worksheet

### Chapter 2

#### Chapter Theme

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*(Summary Statement of the Theme)*

- 1 And when I came to you, brethren, I did not come with superiority of speech or of wisdom, proclaiming to you the testimony of God.
  - 2 For I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified.
  - 3 And I was with you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling.
  - 4 And my message and my preaching were not in persuasive words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power,
  - 5 that your faith should not rest on the wisdom of men, but on the power of God.
- 
- 6 Yet we do speak wisdom among those who are mature; a wisdom, however, not of this age, nor of the rulers of this age, who are passing away;
  - 7 but we speak God's wisdom in a mystery, the hidden *wisdom*, which God predestined before the ages to our glory;

8 *the wisdom* which none of the rulers of this age has understood;  
for if they had understood it, they would not have crucified  
the Lord of glory;

9 but just as it is written,

“THINGS WHICH EYE HAS NOT SEEN AND EAR HAS

NOT HEARD,

AND *which* HAVE NOT ENTERED THE HEART OF MAN,

ALL THAT GOD HAS PREPARED FOR THOSE WHO LOVE

HIM.”

10 For to us God revealed *them* through the Spirit; for the Spirit  
searches all things, even the depths of God.

11 For who among men knows the *thoughts* of a man except the  
spirit of the man, which is in him? Even so the *thoughts* of God  
no one knows except the Spirit of God.

12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the  
Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things freely  
given to us by God,

13 which things we also speak, not in words taught by human  
wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, combining spiritual  
*thoughts* with spiritual *words*.

- 14 But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God; for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised.
- 15 But he who is spiritual appraises all things, yet he himself is appraised by no man.
- 16 For WHO HAS KNOWN THE MIND OF THE LORD, THAT HE SHOULD INSTRUCT HIM? But we have the mind of Christ.



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# 1 CORINTHIANS

## Observation Worksheet

### Chapter 3

#### Chapter Theme

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(Summary Statement of the Theme)

- 1 And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual men, but as to men of flesh, as to babes in Christ.
- 2 I gave you milk to drink, not solid food; for you were not yet able *to receive it*. Indeed, even now you are not yet able,
- 3 for you are still fleshly. For since there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not fleshly, and are you not walking like mere men?
- 4 For when one says, “I am of Paul,” and another, “I am of Apollos,” are you not *mere* men?
- 5 What then is Apollos? And what is Paul? Servants through whom you believed, even as the Lord gave *opportunity* to each one.
- 6 I planted, Apollos watered, but God was causing the growth.
- 7 So then neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but God who causes the growth.
- 8 Now he who plants and he who waters are one; but each will receive his own reward according to his own labor.

9 For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building.

---

10 According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I laid a foundation, and another is building upon it. But let each man be careful how he builds upon it.

11 For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

12 Now if any man builds upon the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw,

13 each man's work will become evident; for the day will show it, because it is *to be* revealed with fire; and the fire itself will test the quality of each man's work.

14 If any man's work which he has built upon it remains, he shall receive a reward.

15 If any man's work is burned up, he shall suffer loss; but he himself shall be saved, yet so as through fire.

---

16 Do you not know that you are a temple of God, and *that* the Spirit of God dwells in you?

17 If any man destroys the temple of God, God will destroy him, for the temple of God is holy, and that is what you are.

---

- 18 Let no man deceive himself. If any man among you thinks that he is wise in this age, let him become foolish that he may become wise.
- 19 For the wisdom of this world is foolishness before God. For it is written, “*He is THE ONE WHO CATCHES THE WISE IN THEIR CRAFTINESS*”;
- 20 and again, “*THE LORD KNOWS THE REASONINGS of the wise, THAT THEY ARE USELESS.*”
- 21 So then let no one boast in men. For all things belong to you,
- 22 whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas or the world or life or death or things present or things to come; all things belong to you,
- 23 and you belong to Christ; and Christ belongs to God.



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# 1 CORINTHIANS

## Observation Worksheet

### Chapter 4

#### Chapter Theme

---

(Summary Statement of the Theme)

- 1 Let a man regard us in this manner, as servants of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God.
  - 2 In this case, moreover, it is required of stewards that one be found trustworthy.
  - 3 But to me it is a very small thing that I should be examined by you, or by *any* human court; in fact, I do not even examine myself.
  - 4 For I am conscious of nothing against myself, yet I am not by this acquitted; but the one who examines me is the Lord.
  - 5 Therefore do not go on passing judgment before the time, *but wait* until the Lord comes who will both bring to light the things hidden in the darkness and disclose the motives of *men's* hearts; and then each man's praise will come to him from God.
- 
- 6 Now these things, brethren, I have figuratively applied to myself and Apollos for your sakes, that in us you might learn not to exceed what is written, in order that no one of you might become arrogant in behalf of one against the other.

- 7 For who regards you as superior? And what do you have that you did not receive? But if you did receive it, why do you boast as if you had not received it?
- 8 You are already filled, you have already become rich, you have become kings without us; and *I* would indeed that you had become kings so that we also might reign with you.
- 9 For, I think, God has exhibited us apostles last of all, as men condemned to death; because we have become a spectacle to the world, both to angels and to men.
- 10 We are fools for Christ's sake, but you are prudent in Christ; we are weak, but you are strong; you are distinguished, but we are without honor.
- 11 To this present hour we are both hungry and thirsty, and are poorly clothed, and are roughly treated, and are homeless;
- 12 and we toil, working with our own hands; when we are reviled, we bless; when we are persecuted, we endure;
- 13 when we are slandered, we try to conciliate; we have become as the scum of the world, the dregs of all things, *even* until now.
- 
- 14 I do not write these things to shame you, but to admonish you as my beloved children.

- 15 For if you were to have countless tutors in Christ, yet *you would not have* many fathers; for in Christ Jesus I became your father through the gospel.
- 16 I exhort you therefore, be imitators of me.
- 17 For this reason I have sent to you Timothy, who is my beloved and faithful child in the Lord, and he will remind you of my ways which are in Christ, just as I teach everywhere in every church.
- 18 Now some have become arrogant, as though I were not coming to you.
- 19 But I will come to you soon, if the Lord wills, and I shall find out, not the words of those who are arrogant, but their power.
- 20 For the kingdom of God does not consist in words, but in power.
- 21 What do you desire? Shall I come to you with a rod or with love and a spirit of gentleness?



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# 1 CORINTHIANS

## Observation Worksheet

### Chapter 5

#### Chapter Theme

---

*(Summary Statement of the Theme)*

- 1 It is actually reported that there is immorality among you, and immorality of such a kind as does not exist even among the Gentiles, that someone has his father's wife.
- 2 And you have become arrogant, and have not mourned instead, in order that the one who had done this deed might be removed from your midst.
- 3 For I, on my part, though absent in body but present in spirit, have already judged him who has so committed this, as though I were present.
- 4 In the name of our Lord Jesus, when you are assembled, and I with you in spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus,
- 5 *I have decided* to deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of his flesh, that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.
- 6 Your boasting is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump *of dough?*

7 Clean out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, just as you are *in fact* unleavened. For Christ our Passover also has been sacrificed.

8 Let us therefore celebrate the feast, not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

---

9 I wrote you in my letter not to associate with immoral people;

10 I *did* not at all *mean* with the immoral people of this world, or with the covetous and swindlers, or with idolaters; for then you would have to go out of the world.

11 But actually, I wrote to you not to associate with any so-called brother if he should be an immoral person, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or a swindler— not even to eat with such a one.

12 For what have I to do with judging outsiders? Do you not judge those who are within *the church*?

13 But those who are outside, God judges. REMOVE THE WICKED MAN FROM AMONG YOURSELVES.

---

# 1 CORINTHIANS

## Observation Worksheet

### Chapter 6

#### Chapter Theme

---

*(Summary Statement of the Theme)*

- 1 Does any one of you, when he has a case against his neighbor, dare to go to law before the unrighteous, and not before the saints?
- 2 Or do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if the world is judged by you, are you not competent *to constitute* the smallest law courts?
- 3 Do you not know that we shall judge angels? How much more, matters of this life?
- 4 If then you have law courts dealing with matters of this life, do you appoint them as judges who are of no account in the church?
- 5 I say *this* to your shame. *Is it so, that* there is not among you one wise man who will be able to decide between his brethren,
- 6 but brother goes to law with brother, and that before unbelievers?

- 7 Actually, then, it is already a defeat for you, that you have lawsuits with one another. Why not rather be wronged? Why not rather be defrauded?
- 8 On the contrary, you yourselves wrong and defraud, and that *your* brethren.
- 9 Or do you not know that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, nor thieves, nor *the* covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, shall inherit the kingdom of God.
- 11 And such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, and in the Spirit of our God.
- 
- 12 All things are lawful for me, but not all things are profitable. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be mastered by anything.
- 13 Food is for the stomach, and the stomach is for food; but God will do away with both of them. Yet the body is not for immorality, but for the Lord; and the Lord is for the body.
- 14 Now God has not only raised the Lord, but will also raise us up through His power.

- 15 Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ?  
Shall I then take away the members of Christ and make them  
members of a harlot? May it never be!
- 16 Or do you not know that the one who joins himself to a harlot  
is one body *with her*? For He says, “THE TWO WILL BECOME  
ONE FLESH.”
- 17 But the one who joins himself to the Lord is one spirit *with  
Him*.
- 18 Flee immorality. Every *other* sin that a man commits is outside  
the body, but the immoral man sins against his own body.
- 19 Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy  
Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you  
are not your own?
- 20 For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God  
in your body.



# 1 CORINTHIANS

## Observation Worksheet

### Chapter 7

#### Chapter Theme

---

*(Summary Statement of the Theme)*

- 1 Now concerning the things about which you wrote, it is good for a man not to touch a woman.
  - 2 But because of immoralities, let each man have his own wife, and let each woman have her own husband.
  - 3 Let the husband fulfill his duty to his wife, and likewise also the wife to her husband.
  - 4 The wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband *does*; and likewise also the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife *does*.
  - 5 Stop depriving one another, except by agreement for a time that you may devote yourselves to prayer, and come together again lest Satan tempt you because of your lack of self-control.
  - 6 But this I say by way of concession, not of command.
  - 7 Yet I wish that all men were even as I myself am. However, each man has his own gift from God, one in this manner, and another in that.
-

- 8 But I say to the unmarried and to widows that it is good for them if they remain even as I.
- 9 But if they do not have self-control, let them marry; for it is better to marry than to burn.
- 10 But to the married I give instructions, not I, but the Lord, that the wife should not leave her husband
- 11 (but if she does leave, let her remain unmarried, or else be reconciled to her husband), and that the husband should not send his wife away.
- 12 But to the rest I say, not the Lord, that if any brother has a wife who is an unbeliever, and she consents to live with him, let him not send her away.
- 13 And a woman who has an unbelieving husband, and he consents to live with her, let her not send her husband away.
- 14 For the unbelieving husband is sanctified through his wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified through her believing husband; for otherwise your children are unclean, but now they are holy.
- 15 Yet if the unbelieving one leaves, let him leave; the brother or the sister is not under bondage in such *cases*, but God has called us to peace.

- 
- 16 For how do you know, O wife, whether you will save your husband? Or how do you know, O husband, whether you will save your wife?
- 
- 17 Only, as the Lord has assigned to each one, as God has called each, in this manner let him walk. And thus I direct in all the churches.
- 18 Was any man called *already* circumcised? Let him not become uncircumcised. Has anyone been called in uncircumcision? Let him not be circumcised.
- 19 Circumcision is nothing, and uncircumcision is nothing, but *what matters* is the keeping of the commandments of God.
- 20 Let each man remain in that condition in which he was called.
- 21 Were you called while a slave? Do not worry about it; but if you are able also to become free, rather do that.
- 22 For he who was called in the Lord while a slave, is the Lord's freedman; likewise he who was called while free, is Christ's slave.
- 23 You were bought with a price; do not become slaves of men.
- 24 Brethren, let each man remain with God in that *condition* in which he was called.
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- 25 Now concerning virgins I have no command of the Lord, but I give an opinion as one who by the mercy of the Lord is trustworthy.
- 26 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.
- 27 Are you bound to a wife? Do not seek to be released. Are you released from a wife? Do not seek a wife.
- 28 But if you should marry, you have not sinned; and if a virgin should marry, she has not sinned. Yet such will have trouble in this life, and I am trying to spare you.
- 29 But this I say, brethren, the time has been shortened, so that from now on those who have wives should be as though they had none;
- 30 and those who weep, as though they did not weep; and those who rejoice, as though they did not rejoice; and those who buy, as though they did not possess;
- 31 and those who use the world, as though they did not make full use of it; for the form of this world is passing away.
- 32 But I want you to be free from concern. One who is unmarried is concerned about the things of the Lord, how he may please the Lord;

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- 33 but one who is married is concerned about the things of the world, how he may please his wife,
- 34 and *his interests* are divided. And the woman who is unmarried, and the virgin, is concerned about the things of the Lord, that she may be holy both in body and spirit; but one who is married is concerned about the things of the world, how she may please her husband.
- 35 And this I say for your own benefit; not to put a restraint upon you, but to promote what is seemly, and *to secure* undistracted devotion to the Lord.

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- 36 But if any man thinks that he is acting unbecomingly toward his virgin *daughter*, if she should be of full age, and if it must be so, let him do what he wishes, he does not sin; let her marry.
- 37 But he who stands firm in his heart, being under no constraint, but has authority over his own will, and has decided this in his own heart, to keep his own virgin *daughter*, he will do well.
- 38 So then both he who gives his own virgin *daughter* in marriage does well, and he who does not give her in marriage will do better.
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**39** A wife is bound as long as her husband lives; but if her husband is dead, she is free to be married to whom she wishes, only in the Lord.

**40** But in my opinion she is happier if she remains as she is; and I think that I also have the Spirit of God.