

Single or married, but serving Christ
1 Corinthians 7:17-40, p. 927

Main Point: Status doesn't matter; serving Christ does.

I. BE CONTENT IN YOUR PRESENT STATE AND FOCUS ON OBEYING CHRIST (1 CORINTHIANS 7:17-24).

- A. Don't seek circumcision to be more Jewish, because ethnicity doesn't matter; obeying Christ does (7:17-19).
- B. Don't seek freedom from slavery, because status in society doesn't matter; contentment before God does (7:20-24).

II. FOCUSING ON SERVING CHRIST SINGLE OR MARRIED (1 CORINTHIANS 7:25-40).

- A. Don't make marriage your goal: Stay single or get married, but realize the troubles involved in being married (25-28).
- B. Make serving Christ your goal, because time in this life is short (7:29-38).
 - 1. Marital status, trials and possessions are all secondary because we have limited time to serve Christ (29-31).
 - 2. Marriage can limit your ability to serve Christ (32-35).
 - 3. While Paul preferred singleness, believers have full freedom to pursue marriage (7:36-38).
- C. Marriage should be permanent, but if your spouse dies you are free to remarry, but only a believer (7:39-40).