

MESSAGE GUIDE

REBOOT: More Instructions About Marriage

1 Corinthians 7:12-24



May 27, 2018

CONNECT

- In your opinion, what are the biggest challenges people face in navigating marriage?

STUDY

1 Corinthians 7 is a chapter dedicated to Paul answering questions about marriage, divorce, remarriage and singleness. And Paul really packs A LOT of thoughts and instructions into this short chapter! This past Sunday we worked our way through 12 verses (12-24) and learned more about the Lord's desire for the closest of all human relationships: marriage. Before working through the following questions, give 1 Corinthians 7:12-24 a read.

- Looking at verses 12 and 13, what counsel does Paul offer to those believers who find themselves in marriages with unbelievers?
- What reason does Paul offer for his counsel in verse 14? What does he mean?
- But what about an instance where the unbelieving spouse wants out of the marriage relationship, particularly because of the other spouse's relationship with Jesus? What does verse 15 have to say about that type of situation?
- Read through verses 17-24. What is the general principle Paul is trying to communicate in this passage? In what ways does he try to illustrate his point? How does the point relate to the marriage relationship?

- Finally, summarize the main teaching points Paul makes in 1 Corinthians 7:12-24.

APPLY

- Before a person gets married, the Bible teaches not to marry someone who doesn't know the Lord (2 Corinthians 6:14). Why is this good advice? What problems or challenges might arise for the Christian married to a non-Christian?
- If a person does decide to marry a non-believer, what counsel does 1 Corinthians 7:12-13 offer? Why should a person remain married to a spouse that doesn't believe?
- In the paragraph on obeying the Lord (Verses 17 to 24) Paul repeats his basic challenge three times (vs 17, 20, 24). In your own words, what is it? Why do we need to be sometimes reminded of this?
- Toward the end of the message, Pastor Kurt shared this quote by Tim Keller: "In sharp contrast with our culture, the Bible teaches that the essence of marriage is a sacrificial commitment to the good of the other. That means that love is more fundamentally action than emotion." Why is this idea behind this quote important for married to understand?
- The saying goes, "The grass isn't greener on the other side; it's greener where you water it." How are you watering your own marriage that it might grow and flourish?