

1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 7:10-16  
Marriage and Divorce

**Regarding the permanence of the marriage of 2 Christians—7:10-11**

- 1) <sup>10</sup> *Now, to the married I command—not I, but the Lord—7:10a*
  - a) i.e. Jesus did teach on this (Matthew 5:31-32; 19:1-12; Mark 10:1-12; Luke 16:18)
- 2) *a wife is not to divorce [chorizo] her husband,*
  - a) Limited to three post-divorce options—7:11 <sup>11</sup> (*but if [3<sup>rd</sup> class condition] she does indeed divorce [chorizo],*
    - i) *she must remain unmarried*
    - ii) *or else be reconciled to her husband),*
    - iii) The former spouse may die, freeing the believer to remarry—cf. 7:39
- 3) *and a husband is not to divorce [aphiemi] his wife.*

**Regarding a spiritually mixed marriage—7:12-16**

- 1) <sup>12</sup> *But to the rest I say (I (emphatic), not the Lord)*
  - a) i.e. there is no record of Jesus specifically teaching on this topic, but Paul's words have equal authority as an apostle of Jesus
- 2) Two possible scenarios and accompanying commands—7:12b-13
  - a) *that if [1<sup>st</sup> class condition] ...*
    - i) *any brother has an unbelieving wife,*
    - ii) *and she approves to live with him,*
    - iii) *he must not divorce [aphiemi] her.*
  - b) <sup>13</sup> *And (if) ...*
    - i) *a (Christian) woman who has an unbelieving husband,*
    - ii) *and he approves to live with her,*
    - iii) *she must not divorce [aphiemi] him.*
- 3) Two reasons for not divorcing an unbelieving spouse—7:14-16
  - a) Present sanctification—7:14-15 <sup>14</sup> *For the unbelieving husband is set apart [hagiazō] in (the sphere of) the wife, and the unbelieving wife is set apart [hagiazō] in (the sphere of) the husband. (cf. Genesis 30:27; 39:5)*
    - i) Consider the children—*Otherwise your<sup>pl</sup> children are unclean, but now they are set apart [hagios].*
      - (1) This verse is misused by some in an attempt to defend infant baptism.
      - (2) One Christian in a family makes it a *different* family than a wholly unbelieving family.
    - ii) Obey the command—<sup>15</sup> *But if [1<sup>st</sup> class condition] the unbeliever divorces [chorizo], let them divorce [chorizo].*
    - iii) Remaining married is not mandatory—*The brother or sister is not enslaved in such cases, but God has called us in (the sphere of) peace.*
  - b) Possible, but not guaranteed, salvation—7:16 <sup>16</sup> *For how do you know, wife, if you will rescue your husband? Or how do you know, husband, if you will rescue your wife?*
    - i) Cf. 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 3:1-2