

1st Corinthians 7:10-16
Marriage and Divorce

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

- 1) ¹⁰ *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 ¹¹ (*but if [3rd 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) ¹² *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 [1st 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) ¹³ *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 ¹⁴ *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^{pl} 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—¹⁵ *But if [1st 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 ¹⁶ *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. 1st Peter 3:1-2