

Series: Together Toward Maturity

Inductive Bible Study Guide: 1 Corinthians 7:1–24



Step 1: Observation – What does the passage say?

Read **1 Corinthians 7:1–24** carefully, more than once. This passage covers several topics related to marriage, singleness, and staying faithful to God’s calling in whatever situation you’re in..

Observation Prompts:

- What specific questions or issues is Paul responding to?
- What commands or principles does Paul give?
- What words or phrases are repeated?
- How does Paul balance freedom and responsibility?

Read the passage and note what you see:

What questions from the Corinthians does Paul address in verses 1–2?

What instructions does Paul give to husbands and wives in verses 3–5?

How does Paul describe singleness and marriage in verses 6–9?

What command does Paul give to married believers about separation or divorce in verses 10–11?

How does Paul instruct believers who are married to unbelievers in verses 12–16?

What principle does Paul teach in verses 17–24 about staying in one’s calling?

Step 2: Interpretation – What does the passage mean?

Paul responds to questions about marriage and singleness in the Corinthian church. Some believers were confused about whether celibacy was more spiritual, or if marriage was still valuable. Paul teaches that both singleness and marriage are gifts from God, and that faithfulness in one’s current calling is what matters most.

Questions to Explore:

What does Paul mean by “it is good for a man not to have relations with a woman”? (v.1) How does this fit with his next statement in verse 2?

What principle about mutual authority in marriage does Paul emphasize in verses 3–5?

Why does Paul call both marriage and singleness gifts? (vv.6–9) What strengths and challenges does each present?

What does Paul say about divorce between two believers? (vv.10–11) How does he ground this in Jesus’ teaching?

Why does Paul allow a believer to stay married to an unbeliever if the unbeliever is willing? (vv.12–14) What does he mean by the unbelieving spouse being “sanctified”?

What guiding principle does Paul give in verses 17–24 about remaining in one’s life situation? How does this reflect contentment and calling?

 Word Study Suggestions:

- **Conjugal rights (v.3):** mutual obligation of intimacy within marriage.
- **Self-control (v.9):** Greek *egkrateuomai* to exercise restraint or mastery over desires.
- **Sanctified (v.14):** set apart or influenced by holiness through the believing spouse’s presence.
- **Calling (v.17):** God’s divine assignment or station in life where He calls believers to live faithfully.
- **Bought with a price (v.23):** redeemed by Christ’s sacrifice; we now belong to Him.

Step 3: Application – How should I respond?

This passage reminds us that faithfulness matters more than status. Whether single, married, divorced, or widowed, believers are called to live in devotion to the Lord. Paul’s call is to serve God right where He has placed us.

Personal Reflection:

How do I view my current life situation — as a burden to escape or a calling to serve God in?

Am I honoring God with my body, time, and relationships?

How do Paul's words challenge the culture's view of love, sex, and marriage?

If married, am I practicing mutual love, respect, and self-giving?

If single, how can I see this season as a gift and opportunity for deeper devotion to the Lord?

How does remembering that I was “bought with a price” influence how I live in my relationships?

Summary Truths:

- Both marriage and singleness are gifts from God, not measures of spiritual worth.
 - Faithfulness in one’s calling matters more than changing one’s status.
 - Marriage is a partnership of mutual love, sacrifice, and holiness.
 - God can use a believing spouse to bring influence and blessing to an unbelieving one.
 - You were bought with a price—your relationships and decisions now belong to the Lord.
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Optional Memory Verse:

“Only let each person lead the life that the Lord has assigned to him, and to which God has called him.” — 1 Corinthians 7:17 (ESV)

Prayer Prompt:

“Lord, help me live faithfully in whatever season I’m in. Whether single or married, content or uncertain, teach me to honor You with my body, relationships, and daily choices. Thank You that I belong to You — help me walk worthy of Your calling.”

For Further Study:

- Matthew 19:3–12 — Jesus’ teaching on marriage and singleness
- Ephesians 5:21–33 — Marriage as a picture of Christ and the Church
- Philippians 4:11–13 — Learning contentment in every circumstance