

## Paul's Second Letter to the Corinthians – Part 2 (early 54)

### 1 Corinthians 5–7

#### The Case of Incest

5:1 It is actually reported that sexual immorality exists among you, the kind of immorality that is not permitted even among the Gentiles, so that someone is cohabiting with his father's wife.

2 And you are proud! Shouldn't you have been deeply sorrowful instead and removed the one who did this from among you?

3 For even though I am absent physically, I am present in spirit. And I have already judged the one who did this, just as though I were present.

4 When you gather together in the name of our Lord Jesus, and I am with you in spirit, along with the power of our Lord Jesus,

5 turn this man over to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, so that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord.

6 Your boasting is not good. Don't you know that a little yeast affects the whole batch of dough?

7 Clean out the old yeast so that you may be a new batch of dough—you are, in fact, without yeast. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed.

8 So then, let us celebrate the festival, not with the old yeast, the yeast of vice and evil, but with the bread without yeast, the bread of sincerity and truth.

#### Dealing With Unrepentant Sin in the Church (Paul's first letter to the Corinthians)

9 I wrote you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral people.

10 In no way did I mean the immoral people of this world, or the greedy and swindlers and idolaters, since you would then have to go out of the world.

11 But now I am writing to you not to associate with anyone who calls himself a Christian who is sexually immoral, or greedy, or an idolater, or verbally abusive, or a drunkard, or a swindler. Do not even eat with such a person.

12 For what do I have to do with judging those outside? Are you not to judge those inside?

13 But God will judge those outside. *Remove the evil person from among you.* [cf. [Deut 13:5](#)]

#### Rebuke for Taking Disputes Between Believers into the Courts

6:1 When any of you has a legal dispute with another, does he dare go to court before the unrighteous rather than before the saints?

2 Or do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if the world is to be judged by you, are you not competent to settle trivial suits?

3 Do you not know that we will judge angels? Why not ordinary matters!

4 So if you have ordinary lawsuits, do you appoint as judges those who have no standing in the church?

5 I say this to your shame! Is there no one among you wise enough to settle disputes between fellow Christians?

6 Instead, does a Christian sue a Christian, and do this before unbelievers?

7 The fact that you have lawsuits among yourselves demonstrates that you have already been defeated. Why not rather be wronged? Why not rather be cheated?

8 But you yourselves wrong and cheat, and you do this to your brothers and sisters!

9 Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived! The sexually immoral, idolaters, adulterers, passive homosexual partners, practicing homosexuals,

10 thieves, the greedy, drunkards, the verbally abusive, and swindlers will not inherit the kingdom of God.

11 Some of you once lived this way. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

#### Paul Cites Certain Slogans and Corrects their Misuse—Freedom Should Never be Used to Excuse Sinful Practices

12 "All things are lawful for me"—but not everything is beneficial. "All things are lawful for me"—but I will not be controlled by anything.

13 "Food is for the stomach and the stomach is for food, but God will do away with both." The body is not for sexual immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body.

14 Now God indeed raised the Lord and he will raise us by his power.

15 Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Should I take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never!

16 Or do you not know that anyone who is united with a prostitute is one body with her? For it is said, "*The two will become one flesh.*" [[Gen 2:24](#)]

17 But the one united with the Lord is one spirit with him.

18 Flee sexual immorality! "Every sin a person commits is outside of the body"—but the immoral person sins against his own body.

19 Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own?

20 For you were bought at a price. Therefore glorify God with your body.

**Concerning Sexual Relations Within Marriage**

7:1 Now with regard to the issues you wrote about: “It is good for a man not to have sexual relations with a woman.”

2 But because of immoralities, each man should have relations with his own wife and each woman with her own husband.

3 A husband should give to his wife her sexual rights, and likewise a wife to her husband.

4 It is not the wife who has the rights to her own body, but the husband. In the same way, it is not the husband who has the rights to his own body, but the wife.

5 Do not deprive each other, except by mutual agreement for a specified time, so that you may devote yourselves to prayer. Then resume your relationship, so that Satan may not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.

6 I say this as a concession, not as a command.

7 I wish that everyone was as I am. But each has his own gift from God, one this way, another that.

**Concerning the Unmarried and Widows**

8 To the unmarried and widows I say that it is best for them to remain as I am.

9 But if they do not have self-control, let them get married. For it is better to marry than to burn with sexual desire.

**Instructions About Divorce for Those Married to Christians**

10 To the married I give this command—not I, but the Lord—a wife should not divorce a husband

11 (but if she does, let her remain unmarried, or be reconciled to her husband), and a husband should not divorce his wife.

**Instructions About Divorce for Those Married to Non-Christians**

12 To the rest I say—I, not the Lord—if a brother has a wife who is not a believer and she is happy to live with him, he should not divorce her.

13 And if a woman has a husband who is not a believer and he is happy to live with her, she should not divorce him.

14 For the unbelieving husband is sanctified because of the wife, and the unbelieving wife because of her husband. Otherwise your children are unclean, but now they are holy.

15 But if the unbeliever wants a divorce, let it take place. In these circumstances the brother or sister is not bound. God has called you in peace.

16 For how do you know, wife, whether you will bring your husband to salvation? Or how do you know, husband, whether you will bring your wife to salvation?

**Be Content to Remain as You Are (If You Can Better Your Situation, Take the Opportunity)**

17 Nevertheless, as the Lord has assigned to each one, as God has called each person, so must he live. I give this sort of direction in all the churches.

18 Was anyone called after he had been circumcised? He should not try to undo his circumcision. Was anyone called who is uncircumcised? He should not get circumcised.

19 Circumcision is nothing and uncircumcision is nothing. Instead, keeping God’s commandments is what counts.

20 Let each one remain in that situation in life in which he was called.

21 Were you called as a slave? Do not worry about it. But if indeed you are able to be free, make the most of the opportunity.

22 For the one who was called in the Lord as a slave is the Lord’s freedman. In the same way, the one who was called as a free person is Christ’s slave.

23 You were bought with a price. Do not become slaves of men.

24 In whatever situation someone was called, brothers and sisters, let him remain in it with God.

**Issues to Consider for Those Not Yet Married**

25 With regard to the question about people who have never married, I have no command from the Lord, but I give my opinion as one shown mercy by the Lord to be trustworthy.

26 Because of the impending crisis I think it best for you to remain as you are.

27 The one bound to a wife should not seek divorce. The one released from a wife should not seek marriage.

28 But if you marry, you have not sinned. And if a virgin marries, she has not sinned. But those who marry will face difficult circumstances, and I am trying to spare you such problems.

29 And I say this, brothers and sisters: The time is short. So then those who have wives should be as those who have none,

30 those with tears like those not weeping, those who rejoice like those not rejoicing, those who buy like those without possessions,

31 those who use the world as though they were not using it to the full. For the present shape of this world is passing away.

32 And I want you to be free from concern. An unmarried man is concerned about the things of the Lord, how to please the Lord.

33 But a married man is concerned about the things of the world, how to please his wife,

34 and he is divided. An unmarried woman or a virgin is concerned about the things of the Lord, to be holy both in body and spirit.

But a married woman is concerned about the things of the world, how to please her husband.

35 I am saying this for your benefit, not to place a limitation on you, but so that without distraction you may give notable and

constant service to the Lord.

36 If anyone thinks he is acting inappropriately toward his virgin, if she is past the bloom of youth and it seems necessary, he should do what he wishes; he does not sin. Let them marry.

37 But the man who is firm in his commitment, and is under no necessity but has control over his will, and has decided in his own mind to keep his own virgin, does well.

38 So then, the one who marries his own virgin does well, but the one who does not, does better.

#### **Widows and Remarriage**

39 A wife is bound as long as her husband is living. But if her husband dies, she is free to marry anyone she wishes (only someone in the Lord).

40 But in my opinion, she will be happier if she remains as she is—and I think that I too have the Spirit of God!

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