

## **A Series of Devotions About Marriage Based on 1 Corinthians Chapter 7**

### **INTRODUCTION**

Genesis 2:18,22,24 “The LORD God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him. . . the LORD God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man. . . That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh.”

Today’s devotion introduces a series of ten based upon chapter 7 of 1 Corinthians. This chapter addresses a number of issues related to marriage. In the previous several chapters St. Paul had addressed the issue of sexual immorality. In this chapter the Holy Spirit, through the pen of St. Paul presents advice, counsel and teaching regarding the proper relationship God desires between males and females, especially in regard to marriage and the sexual union between husbands and wives. Note: The Bible never condones free love, open sexual relationships, etc., as is more and more commonly practiced in the world today.

In this chapter you will find that God’s word addresses men and women equally. There is no superiority in marriage found in the Holy Scriptures. God’s word does assign roles based on gender such as husbands provide the seed for reproduction and the women bear the children. It is interesting in the great “freedoms” espoused by the current culture in human relationships, including sexual, no scientist has found a way to “get around” this design of God. (Genesis 3:16 “To the woman he said, “I will make your pains in childbearing very severe; with painful labor you will give birth to children. Your desire will be for your husband . . .”)

Over the thousands of years sinful human beings, including those within the church, have swung the pendulum regarding marriage too far in one direction and then in the opposite. For example, some have taught that Christians should not marry. Some even believed that remaining single, exercising self-control over their bodies and sexual urges gave them additional spiritual power and holiness. (Religious Ascetics --- See Colossians 2:20-23)

Jesus’ words regarding marriage call for us Christians to honor it and those who live in this relationship. “What God has joined together, let not man divide apart.” (Mark 10:9)

Prayer: Father God, creator of all good things, including your creation of marriage, bless all who live in this blessed relationship that they do so in accord with Your will and word, to Your glory and for their own benefit. In Jesus' name. Amen.

A Christian Hymn for a Wedding Service and Marriage

O Father, all creating, Whose wisdom, love, and pow'r  
First bound two lives together In Eden's primal hour,  
Today to these Your children Your earliest gifts renew;  
A home by You made happy, A love by You kept true.

With good wine, Lord, at Cana The wedding feast You blessed.  
Grant also these Your presence, And be their dearest guest.  
Their store of earthly gladness Transform to heav'nly wine,  
And teach them, in the testing, To know the gift divine.

O Spirit of the Father, Breathe on them from above,  
So searching in Your pureness, So tender in Your love  
That guarded by Your presence And kept from strife and sin,  
Their hearts may heed Your guidance And know You dwell within.

Unless You build it, Father, The house is built in vain;  
Unless You, Savior, bless it, The joy will turn to pain.  
But nothing breaks the union Of hearts in You made one;  
The love Your Spirit hallows Is endless love begun.  
(LSB 858)