

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

### **WIDOWS AND WIDOWERS**

1 Corinthians 7:8-9 “Now to the unmarried and the widows I say: It is good for them to stay unmarried, as I do. But if they cannot control themselves, they should marry, for it is better to marry than to burn with passion.”

According to published numbers by Statista Research Department, Jan 20, 2021, in 2020, there were 3.48 million widowed men and 11.27 million widowed women in the United States. About 700,000 women become widowed each year.

A marriage, in God’s eyes remains, as is stated in the marriage vows “until death parts the married couple.” Rarely do marriage partners die at or close to the same day. Therefore, the question for a widow or widower is real, “should I or should I not marry again?” 1 Corinthians 7:8-9 says that marriage is permissible for widows and widowers. (see also 1 Corinthians 7:39)

God creates men and women. God has said it is not good for them to live outside of the marriage union, yet due to the death of their spouse millions now live no longer married. St. Paul’s words here in 1 Corinthians 7:8-9 are specifically addressed to widows and widowers. A new marriage, he writes, is appropriate for them.

Paul’s words suggest, as does current research, that widows and widowers are sexual human beings. God has given them this gift. If death parts a couple, then the surviving one continues to have God’s gifts, including sexuality. However, God intends the sixth Commandment to be obeyed by a young adolescent, young adult, or one who is in their senior years. A sexual relationship, outside of marriage, is fornication no matter what your age. So, St. Paul instructs, “it is better to marry than to burn with passion.”

In spite of inheritance, social security, insurance, inequality of assets, family and a host of other issues, God’s word says that marriage is the only way for a widow or widower to live in a heterosexual relationship. In chapter six, St. Paul wrote, “Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom

you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies.” (1 Corinthians 6:19-20)

Prayer: O Lord, due to my sinful flesh and the world in which I live there are so many temptations that come my way. Bless me that my life be faithful in living according to Your Word and to give glory and honor to You in all I think, say and do. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

O God, forsake me not! Your gracious presence lend me;  
Lord, lead Your helpless child; Your Holy Spirit send me  
That I my course may run. O be my light, my lot,  
My staff, my rock, my shield— O God, forsake me not!

O God, forsake me not! Take not Your Spirit from me;  
Do not permit the might Of sin to overcome me.  
Increase my feeble faith, Which You alone have wrought.  
O be my strength and pow’r— O God, forsake me not!

O God, forsake me not! Lord, hear my supplication!  
In ev’ry evil hour Help me resist temptation;  
And when the prince of hell My conscience seeks to blot,  
Be then not far from me— O God, forsake me not!

O God, forsake me not! Lord, I am Yours forever.  
O keep me strong in faith That I may leave You never.  
Grant me a blessed end When my good fight is fought;  
Help me in life and death— O God, forsake me not!  
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