

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

GOD INTENDS MARRIAGE TO BE UNTIL DEATH OF SPOUSE

1 Corinthians 7:10-11 “To the married I give this command (not I, but the Lord): A wife must not separate from her husband. But if she does, she must remain unmarried or else be reconciled to her husband. And a husband must not divorce his wife.”

This devotion is about the length of a marriage. This is a difficult issue because in the United States 42 to 45 percent of first marriages terminate with a divorce. Divorce among second and third marriages is even more common. (60 percent of second and 73 percent of third.) 1 Corinthians 7:10-11 is a command from the Lord (Yahweh) that marriage is a union between a husband and wife until death ends the marriage. (See also Matthew 19:6)

Most all of you personally know someone whose marriage terminated with a divorce or perhaps your marriage ended up in divorce. This is equally true within the Christian community; however, researchers have discovered that divorce among devout Christians is far less common than those who are not. Paul’s instruction to Christians is that one who is married should not “separate themselves from” their marriage partner. Paul emphasizes that this command is from God Himself. If a divorce occurs, then the Christian should not marry again, except to their original spouse.

Your Christian marriage is not immune from stress points, jealousy, selfishness, differing view points and a host of other issues that have your Old Adam (sinful nature) as their origin. Satan, through the liberal divorce laws, works overtime to convince you that it is far better to divorce than to be unhappy, disenchanted, etc.

God has given you and your spouse a number of gifts to enable you to positively deal with the sins your Old Adam causes in your marriage. The following is a sample list of those gifts: 1) Prayer – As a couple and individually praying for your marriage, your marriage partner and yourself; 2) Confession and Absolution – Not only does God invite you to confess your sins to Him, but also to the one you have sinned against. And, when you confess and repent not only does God forgive you

but with Christ in your heart you can forgive your spouse (and of course yourself;) 3) God's Word – It guides and directs you in godly directions (Psalm 119:105) and always points you to the cross of Jesus as foundational to your marriage relationship. (Review Psalm 23 and John chapter 10) In the end, since God is for you then nothing can be against you. (Romans 8:31-39)

Prayer: O Lord, You created marriage to be a life-long relationship. Forgive my sinful urges and desires that find fault with my spouse and help me to see my spouse as your precious gift to me to share life together until you part us. Grant us forgiveness for the sins we commit against one another and give us the ability to forgive one another for Jesus' sake in whose name I pray. Amen.

Jesus, lead Thou on Till our rest is won;
And although he way be cheerless,
We will follow calm and fearless.
Guide us by Thy hand To our fatherland.

If the way be drear, If the foe be near,
Let not faithless fears o'ertake us;
Let not faith and hope forsake us;
For through many-a woe To our home we go.

When we seek relief From a long-felt grief,
When temptations come alluring,
Make us patient and enduring.
Show us that bright shore Where we weep no more.

Jesus, lead Thou on Till our rest is won.
Heav'nly leader, still direct us,
Still support, console, protect us,
Till we safely stand In our fatherland.
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