

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

BEING SINGLE IS OK WITH GOD

1 Corinthians 7:25-27 Now about virgins: I have no command from the Lord, but I give a judgment as one who by the Lord's mercy is trustworthy. Because of the present crisis, I think that it is good for a man to remain as he is. Are you pledged to a woman? Do not seek to be released. Are you free from such a commitment? Do not look for a wife.

In the musical, Fiddler on the Roof, there was a woman in the village known as a "Yenta." One of the memorable songs associated with the Yenta was "Match Maker." Actually, by definition, a Yenta is a "busybody," "meddlesome," "troublemaking" person. In the story line, the Yenta was known in her village as a matchmaker.

In many churches, offices, school faculties and a host of other settings there is often a person who takes it upon themselves to try to match up non-married women with non-married men. They are convinced that singleness is not good. According to 1 Corinthians 7: 25-27, this was not the case with St. Paul. He indicates that what he says was not commanded by God, but was still trustworthy. He freely gave advice to single men (the Greek word actually means virgins) to remain so.

The context from which St. Paul presented these words is not absolutely certain. He may have had in mind a famine that historians believe existed at the time he wrote these words. Thus, it would not be good for new marriages and the procreation of children under such dire circumstances. He may also have had in mind the end time that many Christians at that time believed was imminent. In that case there would be no need for marriage.

With Paul's earlier words, under inspiration from God, that men and women should normally marry and now in these verses that it was permissible for them to remain virgins, the point seems to be whatever your personal life situation (virgin or married) your life is in God's hands. Instead of fretting about your personal relationship status, pray God to bless you with faith to trust Him to lead, guide and direct you in regard to your personal relationships with those of the

opposite gender. No match makers are needed when you trust God to bless you in your virginity (singleness) or marriage. In the end all that matters is “. . .to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participate in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, attain to the resurrection from the dead.” (Philippians 3:10-11)

Prayer: Lord, help me to accept my status as virgin, single or married trusting You to lead and guide me in relationships that are in accord with Your will and for my good. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

What God ordains is always good: His will is just and holy.
As He directs my life for me, I follow meek and lowly.
My God indeed In ev’ry need Knows well how He will shield me;
To Him, then, I will yield me.

What God ordains is always good; His loving thought attends me;
No poison can be in the cup That my physician sends me,
My God is true; Each morning new I trust His grace unending,
My life to Him commending.

What God ordains is always good: He is my friend and Father;
He suffers naught to do me harm Though many storms may gather.
Now I may know Both joy and woe; Someday I shall see clearly
That He has loved me dearly.

What God ordains is always good: This truth remains unshaken.
Though sorrow, need, or death be mine, I shall not be forsaken.
I fear no harm, For with His arm He shall embrace and shield me;
So to My God I yield me.
(LSB 760, vv1,3,4,6)