

## marriage

## observances

1 COR 7 → initially I thought could have been a contradiction with 2 COR 6. → BUT (unequally yoked)

I believe the scripture in 2 COR 6 is clear on the context of becoming a true, full believer. Letting the world influence our thinking. Paul is also clear in 1 COR 5: 9-13. The context is not on marriage itself. It's discussing how people at Corinth were to accepting "loving" (not agape) and allowing conformity to the world, rather than "renewing of the mind" one of the seeds that failed in the parable was one with too fertile of ground, which grew everything...

### Lessons in 1 COR 7 regarding marriage.

- \* Paul is answering specific question, not addressing full conduct of marriage. The question topic is regarding sexual relations essentially. → If it's more holy to not have sex in marriage or separate
- The people at Corinth figured sexual immorality (practiced widely among all pagans) was such a problem, that complete celibacy was the answer. They had the idea that marriage was a lesser holy state than celibacy, therefore concluded among themselves married persons ought to separate.
- Paul says for that very reason, it's important for husbands & wives to have each other in a sexual sense. Paul doesn't say "get married" to everyone, but behave married.
- Paul then says husbands should not withhold affection from wife. (not only sexual, but also sexual) - as well as the wife mutual sexual responsibility. "love you" more than "you owe me" (power over the body) → not to be taken out of context like rape or something.
- Paul rejects the idea that your more "holy" by sexual abstinence (v. 5) - more harm comes from this than good (explained in last half of v. 5)  
the word deprive / defraud - same word used in 1 Cor 6: 8.  
(when we deprive our partner from sexual intimacy, we cheat them) not just sexual, but romance / affection as well v. 3)
- "for lack of self control / incontinency" - many people think self control means abstaining, but Paul says that to deprive partner is a lack of self control
- "Satan" does everything he can to discourage sex within marriage & encourage sex outside of marriage
- Paul not being married was most likely married before because it was considered sin among the Jews to not be married by 20 and Paul was an example / raging Jew.
- each state, married or single needs special gifting from God to work Paul explains some are gifted to be single, some to be married.  
married Paul was aware how powerfully a counterfeit show of purity deceives the godly" - Calvin

- marriage, in some phrases, seem almost equivalent with sex. As if the entire reason to many is to have sex because you can't contain yourself?

Paul talks about it - referring to continuance (given by God)

### Continued ...

"to burn w/ passion" - this is not talking about normal sexual desire. "It is one thing to burn, another to feel heat"

- At the same time marriage does not rid a man or woman w/ deep seated sexual problems. They don't magically go away just because marriage.

1 COR 7: 10 "Now unto the married" implies Paul is moving on to address another question dealing w/ marriage & divorce.

first Paul talks about married believers, who thought maybe they should separate to be more holy. Paul says "No!"

→ To the married believer with the unbeliever - they thought "Certainly God can't be glorified if I'm married to an unbeliever" "I should divorce them" Paul says No

Continued ...

V. 14 - "for the unbelieving husband is sanctified through the wife" - Sanctified - set apart and counted as special, and counted as special, purify - to make holy - to dedicate, separate.

↳ this doesn't mean that the unbelieving spouse is saved just by marrying a believer. It means they are set apart for a special working of the Holy Spirit. "until the child is old enough to understand good vs bad, the child is an extension of the parents holiness"

↳ If children of non-Christian parents are saved - it is truly a gift of the mercy of God. I personally believe that many true believers don't grow up naturally w/ the correct doctrine of one black sheep of the family and are gifted great grace from God.

There are conditions to remain married to an unbeliever. (V. 13) the word "pleased" is "consents" → meaning being of one mind with & reach and commit to the same goals & dwell means to "be at home" → to be comfortable. Some people may be married and not want to be home or comfortable being at home.

Paul signs off the letter with hope to those believers married to unbelievers just as in 1 Peter 3:1-6 where an unbelieving spouse will not be led just by words but by conduct → therefore presence is necessary & God may grant grace to them.

↳ I think of these verses  
Proverbs 27:15  
Proverbs 25:24  
Proverbs 21:9  
Proverbs 22:24  
Proverbs 19:13  
Proverbs 15:18  
Proverbs 14:17

→ side note about "continual dripping and contentious wife"

↳ The man who takes shelter under the roof of his house expects protection from the storm, instead he finds a leaky roof which is always a disaster. Likewise, he married with the expectation of finding good, but instead offers no protection & makes him uncomfortable & mistreated in his own home.

(Same goes for opposite sex)

"who ever restrains her, restrains the wind"  
- (V. 16) to correct or reform a contentious wife is a fools errand

The Early Church & Today did not heed to this advice and because of this, the Christian Church was accused for breaking up families, rather than bringing together.

Paul continues the notion of not separating simply because the other doesn't believe yet that you are exactly where you should be in this moment. (V. 17) You can do God's work in any state (married, widow, single)

Paul says were you circumcised before becoming Christian? fine, ~~was~~ were you not? also fine. what matters is walking w/ Christ in the position He has you currently.

A contentious partner/wife is compared very often in the Bible with continual dripping of rain, because

- 1.) it is an always-present annoyance & trouble
- 2.) it wastes & destroys, eroding good & valuable things
- 3.) it keeps you out of the house rather than comfort & protection within it.

(V. 25) virgins doesn't always mean sexually - it means unmarried. Paul is writing to those unmarried now.

\*NOTE - Paul gives judgement NOT commandment from the Lord because Paul is wise & knows everyone's situation is different

Paul recommends those to stay unmarried to those who are BECAUSE of the present distress. A man can be tortured for God's sake, but it makes it so much more unbearable watching your wife raped and kids killed for example. As for the married, Paul says don't abandon your family in times like these!

V. 29-31 - don't attach yourself to much to things of this world. Life is but a vapor.

Paul doesn't condemn those who are married as if they don't commit enough time for the Lord, because previously Paul states that it matters that we serve the Lord in our present situation. It's wrong if the husband or wife doesn't please spouse, but those who are single can hold more responsibility to God, just as a teacher of the word does, rather than the pupil. Paul pleased God more single. But another may please God more through marriage. Everyone to their own calling.

Continued in 1COR 7:36-38--

Paul is discussing w/ the fathers who gives rights to marry. The word "behaving uncomly" doesn't have to do with moral behavior, but the skewed perception of a father refusing his son or daughter to marry because he thinks its more holy. Paul says let them do as they wish. Marriage is good, but single is better based on current circumstance (distress previously discussed)

### Marriage discussed in COL 3:18-19 ↓

Submit is a military term. ~~is~~ meaning rank. Rank has to do with order & authority, not value and ability. The equality of men & women before the Lord remains (Gal 3:28)

Submission is being part of a team. A family is a team. A partnership is a team. The form of the verb submit shows the submission is voluntary. It is NEVER to be forced by a demanding husband. Submission by deference of the loving wife is one who is 1.) Loved correctly by husband and consious that her home must have a head.

The Bible says submit to your own husband. Not men in general.

The term "fit in the Lord" has been taken out of contex to fit a persons bias.

The bias that favors the husband is the husband will prevent it and say when he is a husband he is like God Himself and his idea of submission is submitting in anything & everything he says without question. The Bible NEVER permits this. There are 100% limits on submission. No man submits to man as if he were a god.

The bias that favors the wife is submitting only when the husband does what "the lord wants" - which really means, doing things she only agrees to (to a certain degree) it is only when there is a disagreement that submission is tested. If everyone agrees, is it really submitting?

This means a woman must be very careful with whom she marries. Look for a man you can respect and trust his judgment & decisions. Submitting does not include to

Submitting never excuses a husband to be a tyrant.

→ "The old Christian woman who never married because she never met a man that could master her"

\* Husband must love (agape) wife. ↳ this word has little to do with emotion, but much to do with self-denial for the sake of another

- 1) when husband wants wife to sin
- 2) when husband is medically incapacitated, under the influence or insane
- 3) when husband is violent/abusive
- 4) when husband breaks marriage bond by cheating

• Love that doesnt change • Love that is giving expecting no repayment

• Love that is given to the "unlovable" "unappealing" → Paul doesnt say be nice to your wife (although affection is necessary (1COR 7:3-6) but is rather saying "husbands, continually practice self-denial for the sake of your wife"

Agape is the same love Jesus has for his people. and husbands should imitate (Eph 5:25)

"Dont be bitter" Husbands cant justify treating their wife poorly because of something the wife did or didnt do to or for him. Agape loves even through obvious deficiencies.

### Marriage discussed in... Eph 5:21-33

\* When we are filled with truth / the spirit - we have a mutual submission to each other - meaning thinking of others, never self-seeking. team attitude.

The word "submit" in Eph 5:21 does not appear in original text

V.22 says "For" explaining why submission is necessary

1.) as to the Lord. Submission is not for the husband, rather it is to honor God.

2) woman should not behave as a man, or take the role of a man

when a woman gets married she gives up her name (onoma) meaning authority

→ submission doesnt mean inferiority nor does it mean silence. "SUB-MISSION" the wife says "im going to put myself under that mission" - support it, take part in it. The mission is more important than just her individual desires. "im not putting myself below my husband im putting myself below the mission God has for our marriage & life"

Continued...

(Paul continues in v. 24) and says that a marriage (husband & wife) is an example of

Christ & the Church

v. 23 "Savior"

Wife - Sanctifies

did His church. meaning husbands must do as Christ

presence, protect, keep, guard, provide

Christ nourishes and cherishes His church, just as husbands must treat their wives.

v. 23 "of the body" → don't act independently of the husband. Think of a stroke.

"The arm is not healthy, it resists movement". A healthy body works in ~~unison~~ unison.

These corresponding roles bring unity. Unity/singleness is essential to work.

**\*Thought\***  
↳ I think about marriages that don't end up working is the same as life doesn't work when you don't respect Jesus' authority. God has authority over you, to which you obey. If you don't have God over you and don't obey, your life and marriage end in ruin respectively.\*

It's important to note, that just as we are not natural to live like Christ we aim for that target. You may not be natural to characteristics of Godly marriage, but you must aim for it.

- Some managers these days have no role of authority. Imagine a battalion in the army with no order - chaos!

- The Christian man/husband & wife each have their own obligations

- 1.) both must die to self -
- 2.) both must sacrifice
- 3.) both must honor & replicate the model of Jesus & how He loves His church

\* Eve makes up the fullness of Adam. She makes up what is lacking in him. \* Also Eph 1:23 what the church does for Christ.\*

\* NO husband is entitled to say that he is head of the wife, if he does not love his wife. \*  
\* It must be a reign, a rule, an authority and leadership of love \*

Agape doesn't have much to do with feelings, it has to do with decisions

Husbands love your wives as Christ loved the Church → some current married couples may say "how do I love a wife like mine?" (emphasis on unlovable things about her) But just as Christ loved the church not because of its loveliness, but to make it lovely He loves her not for what she has or looks or is, but rather, what he can bestow upon her

Jesus has a constant, protective, nourishing, guarded, enduring & hearty love for His people - as husbands should have for their wives.

Husbands self sacrifice and may die for the benefit of the wife.

- There is a difference between worldly headship & godly headship. DONT MIX THEM  
wordly says w/ no humble attitude - "take orders from me"  
Godly says w/ humble attitude - "I am your head, so I must care for you & serve you"

Godly marriage is expressed through self-denial and self sacrifice just as we, God's wife, must die to self and our bodies are living sacrifice

v. 27 "that he might present her" - the church is not fit for Christ by nature, He made her so by grace. The husband must care for her spiritually

A husband must love his wife as his own body (Eve was a part of Adam) → the reality of this union must dominate the husband's thinking. The husband will instinctively feel his wife is indeed a part of himself (if he reads the Bible) because the romantic idea of love is based on feelings only, whereas the Bible talks about a decision based love, where thinking & understanding is necessary for a successful marriage.

\* When you love your wife, you benefit yourself. \* When you neglect your wife, you neglect yourself and it will come back to hurt you - like ignoring weird sound in your car - it gets worse over time only a fool neglects his own broken arm

- The moment a husband only thinks of himself, he has in a sense, broken the marriage

v. 31 - there must be a leaving of former self & associations, and then a cleaving to oneness - Gen 2:24 analogy.