



Part 6: *Remaining As You Are*

First Corinthians 7 is a section of considerable importance for the ongoing church, for marriage-related questions are addressed here as nowhere else in the New Testament.

-- Gordon D. Fee, *The New International Commentary on the New Testament*

First Corinthians 7 shows Paul the pastor at his best. No passage in his letters contains a more sustained and nuanced ethical reflection on concrete issues of everyday life.

-- D. A. Carson, *The Pillar New Testament Commentary*

Paul's is not a rule-based morality. Rather, a range of responses is deemed morally appropriate. Paul operates with a notion of what is best and realizes that not everyone will be able to reach that.

-- J. Paul Sampley, *The New Interpreter's Bible Commentary*

There are two goods, marriage and celibacy, of which the latter is better.

-- Augustine, Bishop of Hippo (354-430 AD)

Many people still think Paul was a woman-hater, reinforcing male dominance, but a passage like this makes us pause and wonder.

-- N.T. Wright, *Paul for Everyone*

With his emphasis on the full mutuality of sexuality within marriage, Paul puts sexual relations within Christian marriage on much higher ground than one finds in most cultures, including the church, where sex is often viewed as the husband's privilege and the wife's obligation.

-- Gordon D. Fee, *The New International Commentary on the New Testament*

Marriage for Paul must be seen within the perspective of the priorities of faith. The Christ-event conditions how one should live, whatever one's marital or social status.

-- Ben Witherington III, *Conflict & Community in Corinth: A Socio-Rhetorical Commentary*

Here Paul is not writing a treatise on marriage. Rather, he is replying to specific questions asked by the Corinthians, who had written to ask his advice. Thus what Paul says here must be interpreted within the context of the circumstances of the day.

-- Dacholom Datiri, *Africa Bible Commentary*

Now, concerning the things you wrote me about...

-- The Apostle Paul