

PAUL'S APPENDIX TO MARRIAGE LAW

(I Corinthians 7)

- 7:1 Questions from Corinth Church/Apostle to Gentiles
- 7:2 SINGULAR/See also I Tim. 3:2
Jesus does not treat this
- 7:6 Command versus PERMISSION (Verses 3-5 are the reference here)
- 7:7-9 "For" -- Just as from Jesus: single state best, but not a command

TWO GROUPS

This is something Jesus does not treat because in his day all were under one covenant or were his transferred disciples.

GROUP I

- 7:10,11 Both partners consecrated
Not by permission, but by command
TWO OPTIONS:
- Don't depart
- If depart: (a) cannot re-marry
(b) can reconcile
- Applies to both men and women: This adds to Jewish Law which only permitted men to initiate divorce.
It also adds to Jewish Law in that Jewish Law permitted re-marriage WITHOUT fornication. (Deut. 24)
- REMEMBER: This is all BY COMMAND.

GROUP II

- Married to an unbeliever
- "The rest" (Cf. v.10)
"I, not the Lord" -- echoes v.6; It is BY PERMISSION
- Differs from Group I
- DO NOT DIVORCE (if you are the believer)
- Unbeliever may divorce -- DON'T RESIST
- NO BONDAGE (free from fornication clause)
- peacefully acquiesce.
- accept resulting peace
- CTR does not acknowledge this exception

How do we know that this is an addition with an exception to Jesus' primary teaching?

- If both groups are the same rules, why write Group II?
- If both groups are the same rules, why can Group I divorce, but the consecrated member of Group II cannot?
- If Paul is merely reiterating what Jesus taught, why does he need PERMISSION?

- As Apostle to the Gentiles (his specific appointment -- Rom. 11:13), is it not so that he here deals with something previously non-existent and which applies BECAUSE OF GENTILES?
- What else could "bondage" (opposite of FREE) mean? It cannot mean no bondage to reconcile, because Group I also did not have that restriction.
- Verse 16 is commentary on the whole situation. It is the REASON for the consecrated not to initiate the divorce.

- 7:18-28 Enjoins remaining as called unless the Lord, Himself, creates a change.
- 7:29-38 Regardless of circumstances: prosecute our consecrations as first priority.
- 7:39,40 Remarriage ONLY IN THE LORD;but best to be single.
 - "my judgement;...think ALSO I have the Spirit of God."