

# Sermon Notes



## 1 Corinthians 7:17-40

### 1 Corinthians 7:17

"Only let each person lead the life that the Lord has assigned to him, and to which God has called him. This is my rule in all the churches."

**Big Idea: The LORD wants you to have an Undivided Heart**

**How can I have an undivided heart?**

**A. Discontent** (v.18-28)

**B. Distress** (v. 29-31)

**C. Divided Interests** (v. 32-35)

**D. Determine in Your Heart** (v.36-40)

**Jonah had a divided heart.**

**Divided hearts are incredibly unstable.**

### **A. Be Aware of the Power of Discontent (v.18-28)**

#### **1. Religious Status**

<sup>18</sup> Was anyone at the time of his call already circumcised? Let him not seek to remove the marks of circumcision. Was anyone at the time of his call uncircumcised? Let him not seek circumcision. <sup>19</sup> For neither circumcision counts for anything nor uncircumcision, but keeping the commandments of God. <sup>20</sup> Each one should remain in the condition in which he was called.

### **A. Be Aware of the Power of Discontent (v.18-28)**

#### **2. Socio-Economic Status**

<sup>21</sup> Were you a bondservant when called? Do not be concerned about it. (But if you can gain your freedom, avail yourself of the opportunity.) <sup>22</sup> For he who was called in the Lord as a bondservant is a freedman of the Lord. Likewise, he who was free when called is a bondservant of Christ. <sup>23</sup> You were bought with a price; do not become bondservants of men. <sup>24</sup> So, brothers, in whatever condition each was called, there let him remain with God.

### **A. Be Aware of the Power of Discontent (v.18-28)**

### 3. Marital Status

<sup>25</sup> Now concerning the betrothed, I have no command from the Lord, but I give my judgment as one who by the Lord's mercy is trustworthy. <sup>26</sup> I think that in view of the present distress it is good for a person to remain as he is. <sup>27</sup> Are you bound to a wife? Do not seek to be free. Are you free from a wife? Do not seek a wife. <sup>28</sup> But if you do marry, you have not sinned, and if a betrothed woman marries, she has not sinned. Yet those who marry will have worldly troubles, and I would spare you that.

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#### B. Distress- Be Aware of how Fleeting this World is (v.26; 29-31)

<sup>26</sup> I think that in view of the present distress it is good for a person to remain as he is...

<sup>29</sup> This is what I mean, brothers: the appointed time has grown very short. From now on, let those who have wives live as though they had none, <sup>30</sup> and those who mourn as though they were not mourning, and those who rejoice as though they were not rejoicing, and those who buy as though they had no goods, <sup>31</sup> and those who deal with the world as though they had no dealings with it. For the present form of this world is passing away.

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#### C. Be Aware of the Dynamic of Divided Interests (v. 32-35)

<sup>32</sup> I want you to be free from anxieties. The unmarried man is anxious about the things of the Lord, how to please the Lord. <sup>33</sup> But the married man is anxious about worldly things, how to please his wife, <sup>34</sup> and his interests are divided. And the unmarried or betrothed woman is anxious about the things of the Lord, how to be holy in body and spirit. But the married woman is anxious about worldly things, how to please her husband. <sup>35</sup> I say this for your own benefit, not to lay any restraint upon you, but to promote good order and to secure your undivided devotion to the Lord.

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#### D. Determine in Your Heart (v. 36-40 NKJV)

<sup>36</sup> But if any man thinks he is behaving improperly toward his virgin, if she is past the flower of youth, and thus it must be, let him do what he wishes. He does not sin; let them marry. <sup>37</sup> Nevertheless he who stands steadfast in his heart, having no necessity, but has power over his own will, and has so determined in his heart that he will keep his virgin, does well. <sup>38</sup> So then he who gives *her* in marriage does well, but he who does not give *her* in marriage does better. <sup>39</sup> A wife is bound by law as long as her husband lives; but if her husband dies, she is at liberty to be married to whom she wishes, only in the Lord. <sup>40</sup> But she is happier if she remains as she is, according to my judgment—and I think I also have the Spirit of God.

**How can I have an undivided heart?**

1. Discontent. *"Remain"*

2. Distress. *Give Thanks.*
3. Determine.

**Corporate Prayer**

1. LORD, based on the times we live in, help us to be entirely devoted to you. Show us where we are divided in our hearts.
2. LORD, please help us to abide in you. Show us how to go deeper in our relationship with you.
3. LORD, thank you for the mission to make Committed Followers of Christ. Please provide what is needed for our transition to a second site.

# Study Guide



## 1 Corinthians 7:17-40

**Big Idea: The LORD wants you to have an Undivided Heart**

1. Read **1 Corinthians 7:17-28**. Notice the struggle with discontent in religious status, socio-economic status and marital status. Paul encourages believers to “remain” in the state they are in. Share an area in your life where you are struggling with discontent.

What does it mean for you to “remain”, to abide in Christ, to wait on the LORD?

Discuss.

2. Read **1 Corinthians 7:26 & 29-31**. What do you think were the “present distress[es]” of that time? Why do you think God allows distresses in each generation? How can distresses help us keep our focus on the eternal? Discuss.

3. Read **1 Corinthians 7:32-35**. Discuss the tension of having earthly family obligations and yet wanting to be undivided in your devotion to Christ. If you are married, what has helped you stay devoted to Jesus, first and foremost? If you are single, what inspires you about this passage? Discuss.

4. Read **1 Corinthians 7:36-40 NKJV**. This passage is talking about a dad/daughter relationship when she is of age (12+) to be married in that culture. The father is wondering whether to challenge his daughter to stay single because of the times of distress. Notice that each is encouraged to “determine in his heart”. What does it mean for you to be aware of what causes a divided heart in your life, and how to determine in your heart to be devoted to Jesus?

### **Application**

1. What does it look like for you to “remain”/ abide/ make God your dwelling place?
2. What areas of “distress” can you give over to God and even thank Him for?
3. What would help you be more “determined” in your devotion to Jesus?

### **Corporate Prayer**

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