

Called To be
Saints

STUDIES IN FIRST CORINTHIANS

Marriage, Remarriage, and Divorce

1 Corinthians 7:8-16

Eisegesis vs. Exegesis

- (1) Agenda-driven Extrapolation
- (2) Mishandling the Context
- (3) Minimizing First Principles
- (4) Arguments from Silence
- (5) Equating the Absence of a Prohibition as Permission

1. Advice for Widows & Widowers

The Greek word translated
“unmarried” is *agamois*,
which is the plural form
of the noun *agamos*.

a-gam-ois

Parallel Instructions for Men and Women in Paul's Teaching in 1 Corinthians 7

Reference	Instruction Addressed to Men	Instruction Addressed to Women
v. 2	"let every <u>man</u> have his own wife"	"let every <u>woman</u> have her own husband"
v.3	"Let the <u>husband</u> render unto the wife due benevolence;"	"and likewise also the <u>wife</u> unto the husband."
v. 4	"and likewise also the <u>husband</u> hath not power of his own body, but the wife."	"The <u>wife</u> hath not power of her own body, but the husband"
v. 5	"Defraud ye not <u>one the other</u> ..." (in this case, the mutuality is expressed differently, but Paul's continued approach to addressing both perspectives is apparent)	
vv. 8-9 (in question)	"I say therefore to the <u>unmarried</u> ..." ["unmarried" is a masculine, plural noun most likely referring to widowers]	"and <u>widows</u> , It is good for them if they abide even as I. But if they cannot contain, let them marry; ..."
vv. 10-11	"and let not the <u>husband</u> put away his wife."	"Let not the <u>wife</u> depart from her husband: ..."
vv. 12-13	"If any <u>brother</u> hath a wife that believeth not, ... let him not put her away."	"And the <u>woman</u> which hath an husband that believeth not, ... let her not leave him."
v. 14	"and the unbelieving wife is sanctified by the <u>husband</u> :"	"For the unbelieving husband is sanctified by the <u>wife</u> ."
v. 15	"But if the unbelieving depart, let him depart. A <u>brother</u> ..."	"or <u>sister</u> is not under bondage in such cases:"
v. 16	"or how knowest thou, O <u>man</u> , whether thou shalt save thy wife?"	"For what knowest thou, O <u>wife</u> , whether thou shalt save thy husband?"
v. 28 (in question)	"But and if thou marry, <u>thou</u> hast not sinned;" [Paul is speaking here to men who are engaged or have never married]	"and if a <u>virgin</u> marry, she hath not sinned." [lit., "if the virgin marry"]
vv. 32-34	" <u>He that is unmarried</u> careth for the things that belong to the Lord, ... But he that is married careth for ..."	"The <u>unmarried woman</u> careth for the things of the Lord, ... but she that is married careth for ..."
vv. 36-40 (mutual but not parallel)	"But if any <u>man</u> think that he behaveth himself uncomely toward his virgin, ..."	"The <u>wife</u> is bound by the law ..."
	Because of the juxtaposition of the two paragraphs addressed, respectively, to men and then to women, some see in this portion of the text a continuation of the mutuality prevalent in this chapter, though in this case the parallelism normally seen is lacking.	

1. Advice for Widows & Widowers

A. Stay single if you can.

B. Marry if you must.

1 Corinthians 7:39

“The wife is bound by the law as long as her husband liveth; but if her husband be dead, she is at liberty to be married to whom she will; only in the Lord.”

2. Commands for the Married

A. Stay married.

Mark 10:11-12

“And he saith unto them, Whosoever shall put away his wife, and marry another, committeth adultery against her. 12 And if a woman shall put away her husband, and be married to another, she committeth adultery.”

2. Commands for the Married

A. Stay married.

B. Remain single if you're divorced, or ...

C. Reconcile with your spouse.

3. Instructions for Those Married to an Unbeliever

A. Stay married.

1 Peter 3:1-2

“Likewise, ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands; that, if any obey not the word, they also may without the word be won by the conversation of the wives; 2 While they behold your chaste conversation coupled with fear.”

3. Instructions for Those Married to an Unbeliever

A. Stay married.

B. If abandoned, accept it and remain single.