

What About the "De-Married?"

1 Corinthians 7:6-9

Paul's comments are in repose to specific matters about which they wrote, 7ff.

These comments are based upon 1 Cor 6:19-20.

What about intimacy and marriage, 7:1-5?

What you wrote is incorrect: "It is good for a man not to touch a woman," 7:1b. It was taught by some that abstinence in marriage was good.

What is correct is that a man should have his own wife and the woman her own husband, 7:2-5. "To have" refers to intimacy.

What about unmarrieds and widows, 7:6-9?

Paul writes to a specific situation that we don't completely understand. He isn't writing to answer all of your questions, he's writing to respond to their specific matters.

"I say this as a concession..." refers forward, not backward. A new point begins.

"I wish all men were as *I am*," (7:7); "...It is good to stay unmarried as *I am*," 7:8b.

What does it mean to be "unmarried?"

It does not demand being never married. It means "de-married," of which widows were a specific subset. Paul addresses never marrieds later, 7:25ff, 7:36ff.

This word is used outside of this verse in 7:11, 7:27, 7:32; 7:34.

What about Paul himself? He states I am "de-married."

It seems that Paul was married at one time

He was a Pharisee (Gal 1:13-14; Phil 3:5,6) and marriage was considered imperative to them

Acts 26:10 suggests he was of the Sanhedrin and that would have demanded marriage.

Some believe that when Paul got saved, one of the "all things" he lost was his wife and family, Phil 3:8.

Did his wife die? Did she leave him? Was he divorced?

It seems that exceptions would have been made for Paul to have been all he was before he got saved to have never been married.

We don't know for sure but...

Paul says (he makes no command) three things about the specific situation he had in mind

1. *If I had it my way, all the specific “de-marrieds” and widows to which you made reference in your letter (7:1) would remain that way because of 7:26, 32, 7:7.*
2. *It is good to stay “de-married,” 7:8*
3. *It is better to marry if you can't control those passions, 7:9, but only in the Lord, 7:39.*

Paul addresses younger widows with advice in 1 Timothy 5:14.

Whatever you do, honor God with your body and don't sin.

Example

Suppose that you struggled with alcohol

There is nothing wrong with walking by a tavern.

But if you know doing so will lead you into temptation, then don't do it.

There are two kinds of decisions we make in life

Moral decisions

Wisdom decisions

This matter is a wisdom decision.

The first one was a moral decision.

So what?

Whatever you do, remember you are bought with a price (6:19, 20).

This is about glorifying God with your body!

Help me to make decisions today that will aid me in this endeavor.