

2012 Series “Advice On Marriage” (#06)
“Mixed Marriage”

During the month of March, all my lessons will be taken from 1 Corinthians Ch.7.

Paul designed the special phrase, **Now Concerning**, to divide chs.7-16 into four sections (1 Cor.7:1; 8:1; 12:1; and 16:1). This special phrase was used to address specific problems about which the church leaders had written – “Now concerning the things about which you wrote.” (1 Cor.7:1)

Paul addressed at least the following ten problems regarding marriage in ch.7.

(1 Cor.7:1-2)	Introduction	(1 Cor.7:12-16) Unequally Yoked and Divorce
(1 Cor.7:1-2)	Pre-marital Sex	(Matt.19:1-9) Divorce and Remarriage
(1 Cor.7:7-9)	SEX: Widowed and Divorced	(1 Cor.7:17-24) Status Quo
(1 Cor.7:3-6)	Marital Sex	(1 Cor.7:25-28) Christian Virginity
(1 Cor.7:10-11)	Separation and Reconciliation	

NOTE:

**In this lesson, we are referring to the marriage between
a Believer and Unbeliever as a MIXED MARRIAGE.**

In this lesson, we will study four doctrinal aspects of resolving marital conflict in Mixed Marriages.

1. We will begin by examining our lesson text by the following seven homiletical points.

- **Counseling** from the Bible
 - (1 Cor.7:12) “I say, not the Lord.”
- **Consent** of the unbelieving mate:
 - (1 Cor.7:12-13) A willing agreement to live compatible with the believer’s Christian Way of Life (CWL). [suneudokeo (p.a.ind.3ps) oikeo (p.a.infin) meta + gen. of association]
- **Command** to believer
 - (1 Cor.7:12-13) Do not send away [me aphiemi / p.a.impv.3ps].
- **Consecration** of marriage and family
 - (1 Cor.7:14-15) The unbeliever (apistos) is sanctified (hagiazoo / perf.p.ind.3ps) [set apart unto spiritual things] by means (en+inst.of means) of believer; (1 Cor.2:14; Acts 8:30-31)
- **Case** for divorce and remarriage
 - (1 Cor.7:15a) “Yet if (1cc) [assumed true] the unbelieving one leaves (chorizo / p.m.ind.3ps), let him leave (chorizo / p.m.impv.3ps); the brother or the sister is not under bondage (ouk douloo / perf.p.ind.3ps) in such cases.”
- **Call** to peace
 - (1 Cor.7:15b) (kaleo / perf.a.ind.3ps) [married or divorce] God has called the Church Age Believer (CAB) to live in the sphere of peace in his/her Christian Way of Life (CWL) (en+loc. of sphere eirene); (1 Cor.14:33); (Rom.5:1-2)
- **Commissioned** to gospel
 - (1 Cor.7:16) “For how do you know (oida / perf.a.ind.2ps) if (1cc) [assumed true]?”

- Since the unbeliever was willing to live compatible with the CWL, the believer agrees to pray and evangelize members of the family (2 Cor.5:18-21; Acts 16:31; 2 Pet.3:9).
- **Noah taught us that the home is one of the most important mission fields (Heb.11:7).**

2. The major cause of mixed marriages in the Corinthian church was evangelism of Paul's second missionary trip (Acts 18) (1 Cor.1:17-2:5).

(1 Cor.1:18) "For the **word of the cross** is foolishness (moria) [English word is moron] to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God." (Rom.1:16) (1 Cor.15:3-4)

- Our lesson text gives advice to believers who realize they have a mixed marriage biblically.

However, Christians are instructed to marry only believers (1 Cor.7:39; 9:5; 2 Cor.6:14-16).

- **I say**, not Paul or the Lord, Christians should NOT be open to romantically dating unbelievers since dating is an American custom leading to marriage
 - **(Read Samson's mistakes in Judges 14-16).**
 - Marriage is a gift from God (1 Cor.7:7).
 - Believing mate is also a gift from God (Prov.18:22; 19:14).

3. Paul gave five situations for a believer in a mixed marriage.

- If the unbeliever is willing to live within a Christian environment, then the believer should remain in the marriage. (1 Cor.7:12-13).
- But if the unbeliever leaves the marriage, the believer has rights to remarry, but only to another believer. (1 Cor.7:15, 39).
- The unbeliever receives spiritual blessings by association by the believer's presence in the marriage or family (1 Cor.7:14).
- Believers are called to live in peace with God in a mixed marriage (1 Cor.7:15) (Phil.4:6-7) (Prov.15:13, 30).
- Believers have a responsibility to exercise their ambassadorship in the home (1 Cor.7:16).

4. Paul taught a fourth doctrine regarding Christian sanctification (hagiamos).

- **Positional** sanctification
 - **Salvation** (2 Thess.2:13) (1 Cor.6:11) (Rom.15:16)
- **Experiential** sanctification
 - **The Christian in time** (CWL) (John 17:17) (2 Tim.2:21) (1 Pet.3:15).
- **Associational** sanctification
 - **Blessing by association** with other spiritual believers (1 Cor.7:14).
- **Ultimate** sanctification
 - **The believer in eternity** / resurrection body (Heb.2:11; 10:14) (1 Thess.3:13; 5:23).