



"Marriage?"
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... I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.

John 10:10 (NRS)

Biblical Instruction about Marriage:

Now concerning the matters about which you wrote: "It is well for a man not to touch a woman." But because of cases of sexual immorality, each man should have his own wife and each woman her own husband. The husband should give to his wife her conjugal rights, and likewise the wife to her husband. For the wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband does; likewise the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife does. Do not deprive one another except perhaps by agreement for a set time, to devote yourselves to prayer, and then come together again, so that Satan may not tempt you because of your lack of self-control. This I say by way of concession, not of command. I wish that all were as I myself am. But each has a particular gift from God, one having one kind and another a different kind. To the unmarried and the widows I say that it is well for them to remain unmarried as I am. But if they are not practicing self-control, they should marry. For it is better to marry than to be aflame with passion.

I Corinthians 7:1-9 (NRSV)

- I. Single and Celibate is a _____.
- II. Marriage is a _____.
- III. If you are Married, it is Good to _____.

To the married I give this command-- not I but the Lord-- that the wife should not separate from her husband (but if she does separate, let her remain unmarried or else be reconciled to her husband), and that the husband should not divorce his wife. To the rest I say-- I and not the Lord-- that if any believer has a wife who is an unbeliever, and she consents to live with him, he should not divorce her. And if any woman has a husband who is an unbeliever, and he consents to live with her, she should not divorce him. For the unbelieving husband is made holy through his wife, and the unbelieving wife is made holy through her husband. Otherwise, your children would be unclean, but as it is, they are holy.

I Corinthians 7:10-14 (NRSV)

IV. If your Spouse leaves, _____.

But if the unbelieving partner separates, let it be so; in such a case the brother or sister is not bound. It is to peace that God has called you. Wife, for all you know, you might save your husband. Husband, for all you know, you might save your wife.

I Corinthians 7:15-16 (NRSV)

Point: _____

Doggy Bag: Something to take home and chew on!

1. What has been the most impactful decision in your life? How has that decision shaped your life for good? For bad? What have you learned from that decision? If you had to make the decision again, how would you make it differently?
2. Have you made the decision to make Jesus #1 in your life? What does it mean to you to allow Jesus to be Lord? How has that decision impacted your life?
3. If you are married how does your faith in Christ shape your marriage?
4. If you are single how does your faith in Christ shape your single life?
5. When have you felt like your marital status will determine your fulfilment in life? What would it look like to look to Jesus for abundant life in whatever status you are in?



ANSWER KEY:

- I. Single and Celibate is a **GOOD THING.**
- II. Marriage is a **GOOD THING.**
- II. If you are Married, it is Good to **STAY MARRIED.**
- III. If your Spouse leaves, **YOU ARE FREE.**

POINT: **JESUS IS BIGGER THAN "I DO."**