

I CORINTHIANS

God's Goal for Your Marriage

Ronnie Norman

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1. General Advice to Singles

- Stay single if you can
- Get married if you choose

2. General Advice to Christian Couples

1 Corinthians 7:10-11

¹⁰ To the married I give this command (not I, but the Lord): A wife must not separate from her husband. ¹¹ But if she does, she must remain unmarried or else be reconciled to her husband. And a husband must not divorce his wife.

2. General Advice to Christian Couples

- Don't deprive & don't bail
- Stay open to & pursue reconciliation

3. Advice to Spiritually Mismatched Marriages

1 Corinthians 7:12

12 To the rest I say this (I, not the Lord): If any brother has a wife who is not a believer and she is willing to live with him, he must not divorce her.

1 Corinthians 7:13

¹³ And if a woman has a husband who is not a believer and he is willing to live with her, she must not divorce him.

1 Corinthians 7:14

14 For the unbelieving husband has been sanctified through his wife, and the unbelieving wife has been sanctified through her believing husband.

1 Corinthians 7:14

*Otherwise your children would be
unclean, but as it is, they
are holy.*

1 Corinthians 7:15

¹⁵ *But if the unbeliever leaves, let it be so. The brother or the sister is not bound in such circumstances; God has called us to live in peace.*

1 Corinthians 7:16

¹⁶ *How do you know, wife, whether you will save your husband? Or, how do you know, husband, whether you will save your wife?*

3. Advice to Spiritually Mismatched Marriages

- Stay together if you can
- Your presence is a “blessing”
- If they bail, you are not bound

4. General Advice to us All
You have a calling from God right
where you are!

1 Corinthians 7:17

17 Nevertheless, each person should live as a believer in whatever situation the Lord has assigned to them, just as God has called them. This is the rule I lay down in all the churches.

1 Corinthians 7:18-19

¹⁸ Was a man already circumcised when he was called? He should not become uncircumcised. Was a man uncircumcised when he was called? He should not be circumcised.

1 Corinthians 7:18-19

19 Circumcision is nothing and uncircumcision is nothing. Keeping God's commands is what counts.

1 Corinthians 7:20

20 Each person should remain in the situation they were in when God called them.

1 Corinthians 7:21-23

²¹ Were you a slave when you were called? Don't let it trouble you— although if you can gain your freedom, do so. ²² For the one who was a slave when called to faith in the Lord is the Lord's freed person;

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1 Corinthians 7:21-23

²³ You were bought at a price; do not become slaves of human beings.

1 Corinthians 7:24

24 Brothers and sisters, each person, as responsible to God, should remain in the situation they were in when God called them.

For Further Reading:

Divorce and Remarriage in the Bible: The Social and Literary Context

by David Instone-Brewer, 2002

Wm B. Eerdmans Publishing Co.