

The South Florida Avenue MESSENGER

A Friendly Church With a Vital Message Proclaiming the Unsearchable Riches of the Lord Jesus.

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SUNDAY SERVICES

Bible Study.....9:30 a.m.
Worship.....10:30 a.m.
Evening Worship.....6:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

Ladies Class.....10:00 a.m.
Bible Study.....7:00 p.m.

HOME OF

Florida School of Preaching
since 1969

MISSION FIELDS

Dub Hill.....Russia
Don Iverson.....India
Marc Veary.....Malawi, Africa
Graham McDonald..Scotland
J. Paguaga.....Honduras, C.A.
Joey Treat.....Pacific Islands
Ted Wheeler.....Ghana, W.A.

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www.southfloridaavenuechurchofchrist.com



IN
SEARCH
OF THE LORD'S WAY

Sundays @ 8:30 a.m. Check local listings

First Corinthians 7:8-16

Concerning Marital States

Brian R. Kenyon

First Corinthians 7 is a tremendous chapter dealing with an important, though often controversial, subject. In verses 1-7, Paul gave some general principles about marriage and sexual relations (see last week's bulletin article). In these verses Paul told his readers that it was better to be single. He later revealed the reason why: there was a "present distress," probably persecution related, that would result in "trouble in the flesh" for those who were married (1 Cor. 7:26, 28). Since the apostle said it was best to remain single, many questions would arise concerning people who were already in various marital states. These questions were answered by Paul in this section.

The Unmarried and Widows

Paul wrote, "But I say to the unmarried and to the widows: It is good for them if they remain even as I am" (1 Cor. 7:8). To abide like Paul was to be unmarried. Paul was saying that it was good for those not bound by marriage to remain as they were. However, Paul did qualify the preferred state of being unmarried, "but if they cannot exercise self-control, let them marry. For it is better to marry than to burn with passion" (1 Cor. 7:9). The word translated "cannot exercise self-control [cannot contain, KJV; have no continency, ASV]" refers to those who cannot control themselves or curb their sexual desire (Thayer 167). "Burn" may refer to being consumed with sexual desire that leads to sin (cf. 1 Cor. 7:2); hence, "burn with passion" (cf. Mt. 5:28; 1 Tim. 5:11-15), or it may refer to burning in Gehenna because of sin (cf. 1 Cor. 6:9-10). In either case, it is better to marry than to burn!

Those Already Married

Paul continued, "Now to the married I command, yet not I but the Lord: A wife is not to depart from her husband" (1 Cor. 7:10). The phrase, "yet not I but the Lord," seems best to refer to something Jesus explicitly addressed while in the flesh (i.e., the permanency of marriage, Mt. 5:31-32; 19:3-9; Mk. 10:9-12; Lk. 16:18). Later, Paul would give his inspired judgment on matters that Jesus did not explicitly address during His earthly ministry (1 Cor. 7:12, 25, 40), but here was something about which Jesus had already spoken. The word translated "depart [separate, ESV]" (*chorizo*) basically means to divide or separate, and in some cases is almost a technical term in connection with divorce (Morris, quotes Milligan [continued on page 2])

and Moulton, 105). Unfortunately, some spouses would still insist on departing the marriage. Thus, Paul wrote, “But even if she does depart, let her remain unmarried or be reconciled to her husband. And a husband is not to divorce his wife” (1 Cor. 7:11). When this occurs, note that the departing spouse has only two options: remain unmarried or be reconciled to the other spouse (cf. Mt. 19:9)! Note also that the remaining spouse is not to “divorce” the spouse who left! “Divorce [put away, KJV; leave, ASV]” (from *aphiemi*) means to let go, send away. The Greek word is sometimes even translated “forgive” (Mt. 6:12-15; Acts 8:22). However, in a legal sense, the word can mean “divorce” (Bauer 124). This verse does not address the possibility of fornication, but if the departing spouse were guilty (or became guilty) of fornication during the reconciliation process, then obviously Matthew 19:9 would have some application.

Christians Married to Non-Christians

Up to this point, Paul had simply been discussing remaining single or being married, which principles apply to all people, whether they are Christian (Gen. 2:18-25). At this point, he specifically addressed Christians who were married to non-Christians. Although some might not agree, it seems best that “to the rest I, not the Lord, say” (1 Cor. 7:12a) indicates that Paul was about to discuss something Jesus did not explicitly address in His earthly ministry (i.e., Christians being married to non-Christians). However, Paul was not merely giving his opinion, but his inspired judgment (1 Cor. 7:40).

Paul went on to say, “If any brother has a wife who does not believe, and she is willing to live with him, let him not divorce her. ¹³And a woman who has a husband who does not believe, if he is willing to live with her, let her not divorce him. ¹⁴For the unbelieving husband is sanctified by the wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified by the husband; otherwise your children would be unclean, but now they are holy” (1 Cor. 7:12b-14). Note three truths from these verses. First, if the “wife who does not believe ... is willing to live with him” and if the “husband who does not believe ... is willing to live with her” tells us that the *unbeliever* determines whether or not the marriage will stay intact! The Christian already should be committed to following God’s word on marriage (cf. Col. 3:1-3). Second, the mere fact that one spouse is a non-Christian does not mean the marriage has to end (“let him not divorce her ... let her not divorce him”). Third, a Christian married to a non-Christian is still a legitimate marriage! Remember, marriage is not a “church of Christ doctrine.” It was ordained by God on the sixth day of creation for all humanity (Gen. 2:18-25), thousands of years before the church of Christ began in Acts 2! The “unbelieving husband” being “sanctified by the [believing] wife,” and the “unbelieving wife” being “sanctified by the [believing] husband” is not referring to salvation. Rather, it means the marriage is still “set apart” as being legitimate. If this were not the case, then the children resulting from that marriage would be illegitimate, but even the people in Corinthian recognize that such children were not illegitimate (1 Cor. 7:14b)!

If the non-Christian spouse insists on departing the marriage, the Christian spouse is not compelled to force him or her to be married. “But if the unbeliever departs, let him depart; a brother or a sister is not under bondage in such cases. But God has called us to peace” (1 Cor. 7:15). A detailed study of “not under bondage” will be given in next week’s bulletin to show the phrase does not free the Christian to remarry at the mere departure of an unbelieving spouse. For now, though, suffice it to say that the Christian is not (and never has been) enslaved to the whims of the non-Christian (cf. 1 Cor. 7:21-23). Because the non-Christian leaves the marriage does not mean the Christian must! Two wrongs do not make a right! There is no guarantee that the Christian spouse will ever convert the non-Christian spouse, “For how do you know, O wife, whether you will save your husband? Or how do you know, O husband, whether you will save your wife?” (1 Cor. 7:16).

Conclusion

Although people’s marital states are different, and certain factors must be considered before changing them, one fact stands clear: marriage is a serious matter. We must first consider God’s will in marriage and then how that fits into our particular marital state. May we put God’s will first, and completely honor His it. *AEBrian*

Works Cited

- Bauer, Walter. *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature*. 2nd rev. ed. by William F. Arndt, F. Wilbur Gingrich, and Frederick W. Danker. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press, 1979.
- Morris, Leon. *The First Epistle of Paul to the Corinthians*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1985.
- Thayer, Joseph Henry. *Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament*. 1889. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1977.

SFA FAMILY MATTERS

Prayer List

Our Members: Carlene Long and Debra Pavlovic-Okolichany were home sick. David Anderson had a procedure done and is home recuperating. Ginny Hamby, Wanda Bruno, Wayne Shearer, Sharon Washington, Dorothy Trice, Faith West, Jim Turner, and Margaret Coone.

Shut In Members: Carol Eason, Virginia Plumlee, Dick & Joyce Burbage and Cheryl Barker.

Others: Wayne Shearer's parents, Paulisky Irizarry, Sandra Hutchins, Lynn Stevens, Chrissi Fuesner, Bobby Cole, Ruth Brunson, Chip Bolding, Tonya Mathis, Tony Seibert (Dotty Fife's brother) who has cancer, Peggy Nabors (member at Orange Street) who has cancer, Richard Coone (Margaret's brother), and Maureen Nichols.

Upcoming Events

Saturday February 2nd: Ladies Day at the Sebring Parkway church of Christ. Registration at 8:00 a.m. Program at 9:00 a.m. If you plan to attend let the office or Anita Shearer know. We plan to car-pool over there.

Sunday Feb 3rd: Fellowship In-Service after evening services.

Sunday Feb 10th: Elders and Deacons Meeting at 4:30 p.m.

Thursday Feb 14th: Sweetheart Dinner here at the building at 6:00 p.m. The sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board. There will be baby-sitting. Please list the number of children next to your name on the list.

Saturday Feb 16th: Men's Breakfast here at SFA at 8:00 a.m.

Saturday Feb 16th: Sebring Youth Seminar at 9:00 a.m. Youth group skating at 4:00 p.m.

Tuesday Feb 19th: Senior Saints meeting at 10:00 a.m. Presentation by the Polk County Sheriff's office.

February 22nd-24th: YES weekend. If you plan to attend please sign up and put your t-shirt size on the sheet.

Visitors

Christy Wright, Johnny Davidson, Toney Wilson, Peter Saunders, Jerry Green, Eric Bunch and Sherman Williams.

~ Communion to Shut-ins ~

February 3rd.....McShane
February 10th.....Kemp
February 17th.....Kemp

We still need Volunteers!!

Sign up sheet is on the announcement bulletin board.

Watch . . .



In Search of the Lord's Way

Sundays @ 8:30 a.m. Check local listings

SCHEDULED TO SERVE

February

Bobby Sheumaker **Table** Wayne Shearer
Phil Fife..... **Assist** Ken Walker

Sunday, February 3, 2019
9:30 A.M.

Song at Bible Class..... Frank Hamby
Prayer Josh Estridge

10:30 A.M.

Announcements Fred Strickland
Song Leader..... Jason Hendrix
Opening Prayer..... Matt Willcutt
Sermon..... George Beals
Closing Prayer..... Tim Croson
Sound Booth..... Tucker Sweeney

6:00 P.M.

Song Leader..... Kyle Williams
Opening Prayer..... Alex Parramore
Sermon..... George Beals
Closing Prayer..... Charles Paulin
Sound Booth..... Tucker Sweeney
Greeters Williams/Paulin
Att. Cards..... Caelen/Cam'ron
Open & Close Building Bobby Sheumaker

Wednesday, February 6, 2019

Song Leader..... Paul Romine
Opening Prayer..... Wayne Shearer
Closing Prayer..... Frank Hamby

Please meet in the library. If you cannot serve, please call Stacey Paulin so he can get a replacement - (863) 838-8911

Sunday, February 10, 2018
9:30 A.M.

Song at Bible Class..... Paul Romine
Prayer..... David Williams

10:30 A.M.

Announcements Fred Strickland
Song Leader..... Jason Hendrix
Opening Prayer..... John McShane
Sermon..... Hiram Kemp
Closing Prayer..... David Deal
Sound Booth..... Casey Paulin

6:00 P.M.

Song Leader..... Kyle Williams
Opening Prayer..... Kenny French
Sermon..... Hiram Kemp
Closing Prayer..... Alex Parramore
Sound Booth..... Casey Paulin
Greeters Bingle/Faneuf
Att. Cards..... Colby/Sawyer
Open & Close Building Bobby Sheumaker

Wednesday, February 13, 2019

Song Leader..... Matt Willcutt
Opening Prayer..... Kyle Bingle
Closing Prayer..... Bobby Sheumaker

~ HOW ARE WE GIVING ~

Jan. 06.....\$7,348.68
Jan. 13.....\$5,733.45
Jan. 20.....\$5,397.55
Jan. 27.....\$4,875.62
Contribution Average.....\$5,838.83
Weekly Budget.....\$6,524.52



Member Spotlight
Flo Duffy



Flo was born in Brooklyn, New York, and grew up in that area. She married Ed in 1959 and were married 43 years. They lived in New York and Pennsylvania. After his retirement, they moved to Lakeland in 1988. Ed graduated from FSOP in 1995. Her first job was as a typist. She has visited Europe, Tokyo, and Australia. Her favorite book is the Bible. When she has free time, she likes to read, watch movies, and be with church members and friends. The best advice she's ever been given is "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you."



Member Spotlight
Jeff Bingle



Jeff was born in Cincinnati, Ohio, and moved to Tampa as a child with his family. He was involved with sports growing up and graduated high school in Tampa. His first job was mowing lawns. He has worked with Publix Supermarkets for several years, currently as a spotter driver. His favorite book is the Bible. His favorite season is winter. He likes just about any dessert, and sweet tea is his preferred drink. In his spare time, he likes to sleep (because he often works all hours of the night). He and his wife, Rene', have two children.



South Florida Avenue
CHURCH OF CHRIST
1807 South Florida Avenue
Lakeland, FL 33803-2653

Return Service Requested

The End of Your Search for a Friendly Church . . .

**Thanks to All Who
Helped the Lecture-
ship Be a Success!**



**Make
Plans
Now To
Attend**

**Feb. 22-24,
2019**



**Another Great
Opportunity To
Grow Spiritually**

SAVE THE DATE	
PTP SPARK	3.10-3.13 2019
ORANGE PARK, FLORIDA Lakeside church of Christ	