

1 Corinthians 7:17-24 (May 29, 2022)

OPENING QUESTION:

SERMON DISCUSSION: How were you impacted by the sermon? What new thoughts or lessons did you discover? In what ways did you find yourself challenged and/or encouraged?

READ 1 Corinthians 7:17-24

1. What principle(s) does Paul emphasize in 1 Corinthians 7:17, 20 and 24 for all the churches?

2. “Believers may serve God in many different spheres. We are to lead the life we had when the Lord called us (v. 17). The Lord does not demand a drastic change in our social status, employment, or marital state when He brings us to faith in Jesus. These outward circumstances have no bearing on whether we can serve God (unless, of course, they require us to sin). Consequently, He does not require us to change any of them.”
(Ligonier.org regarding 1 Corinthians 7:17-19)

How did your attitude toward your circumstances change when you first became a believer? Have you ever asked, “If only my circumstances were different...” and how does Paul’s charge redirect your thinking (1 Corinthians 7:17)?

3. Why did circumcision at one time matter (Genesis 17:9-14)? Why does it no longer matter? What does matter according to 1 Corinthians 7:19; Galatians 5:6, 6:14-15?

4. Paul says, “each should remain in the condition when he was called” (1 Corinthians 7:20). Is he contradicting himself when he says to those who are bondservants “if you can gain your freedom, avail yourself of the opportunity” (1 Corinthians 7:21)? Why or why not?

5. After addressing religious divisions (circumcised and uncircumcised), Paul turns to social divisions. What is revealed about those who are free and those who are bondservants in the culture (1 Corinthians 7:22-24; John 8:36; Romans 6:7-8, 17-18; Colossians 1:13-14)?

6. What warning and what reassurance is found in 1 Corinthians 7:23-24? Give practical ways believers can heed this warning. Share how this reassurance helps you in your present circumstances.