

1 CORINTHIANS:

God's Glorious Church in Real Life

Sermon Title: "Glorious Freedom as the Slave of Christ"

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 7:17-24

Pastor Chris Fritz / Sunday, March 7, 2021

INTRODUCTION

"Only let each person lead the life that the Lord has assigned to him, and to which God has called him. This is my rule in all the churches." (1 Corinthians 7:17)

"The words of the wise are like goads, and like nails firmly fixed are the collected saying; they are given by one Shepherd." (Ecclesiastes 12:11)

Note: Verses 17-24 emphasize that you can _____ for Christ no matter what circumstances you're in!

I. HUMBLY LIVING IN RESPONSE TO GOD'S GRACIOUS CALL ON OUR LIVES

Eight times Paul uses the word "call" or "called" (1 Corinthians 7:17, 18, 20, 21, 22, 24).

1) God has the sovereign right and authority to BOTH _____ us to Himself and to _____ us in whatever context or situation will bring Him the most glory and make us more like Jesus!

"The heart of man plans his way, but the Lord establishes his steps." (Proverbs 16:9)

"The lot is cast into the lap, but its every decision is from the Lord." (Proverbs 16:33)

"Many are the plans in the mind of a man, but it is the purpose of the Lord that will stand." (Proverbs 19:21)

2) While these verses do not minimize the pain of difficult circumstances, they should give us hope and strength to carry on as we _____ ourselves (and our circumstances) to the Lord!

1 Corinthians 7:18-19 -

"The most important is, 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' The second is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these." (Mark 12:29-31)

1 Corinthians 7:20-23 -

3) You, who feel enslaved, remember your true, ultimate, eternal _____ in Christ!

“If you abide in My word, you are truly My disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” (John 8:31b-32)

“Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin. The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.” (John 8:34-36)

“Beloved, we are God’s children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when He appears we shall be like Him, because we shall see Him as He is. And everyone who thus hopes in Him purifies himself as He is pure.” (1 John 3:2-3)

4) You, who feel free and prosperous, remember that you _____ to Jesus!

1 Corinthians 7:22-24 -

“For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (Romans 8:38-39)

Questions for Further Study, Reflection, and Application...

1. What are some repeated words and/or phrases in verses 17-24? Why are they repeated and emphasized? What do they teach us?
2. How do these verses give us strength and courage to persevere in difficult situations?
3. What does it mean to be a “freedman of the Lord” (verse 22)?
4. What does it mean to be a “bondservant of Christ” (verse 22)?
5. Instead of hating and resenting hard circumstances, how can you demonstrate perseverance and trust in God? What lessons or truths do you think God may be teaching you right now?