“If You Do Marry...”
1 Cor. 7:25-28

Introduction:
A. Paul deals with marriage for the “present distress”.
   1. Marriage discouraged but not forbidden.
   2. Marriage preferred over immorality, even under “present distress” (v. 2,9).
   3. Marriage to be honored even under “present distress”. (vv. 10-17).
B. We deal with implications suggested by, “If you do marry...” under two headings:

Discussion:

I. The Making of a Marriage.
A. Men and women have a right to make a scriptural marriage.
   1. Marriage is to be held in honor and not to be doctrinally forbidden. (Heb. 13:5; 1 Tim. 4:3)
   2. Marriage is alternative to either celibacy or immorality. (1 Cor. 7:2,9)
B. Men and women do not have a right to make an unscriptural marriage. (Mark 6:17,18).
   1. It may be sanctioned by society, but not by God.
   2. It may even be recognized as a marriage in Bible, but an unlawful one.
C. Men and women do not have a right to marriage unconditionally.
   1. One may marry if he/she marries of the opposite sex. (cf. Rom. 1)
   2. One may marry if he/she has never been married.
   3. One may marry if he/she is a widow(er). (Rom. 7:1-3).
   4. One may marry if he/she is innocent and divorces a mate for fornication. (Matt. 19:9).
   5. One may marry if he/she marries one who has a right to marry.
D. Men and women may make inexpedient marriages that may be lawful. (1 Cor. 7:25-40).
   1. Cannot say culturally or racial marriages sinful, but unwise.
   2. Cannot say religiously mixed marriages sinful, but unwise (cf. 2 Cor. 6:14-17)

II. The Breaking of a Marriage.
A. The basic rule is that marriage can only be broken by death. (Rom. 7:1-3).
B. The Bible gives one exception to the basic rule - fornication. (Matt. 5:32; Matt. 19:1-9).
   1. It gives one the right to divorce, not an obligation.
   2. It must the reason for putting away before one may marry another.
C. The Bible may give some right to live apart under extreme circumstances, but only have two options -- remain unmarried or be reconciled. (1 Cor. 7:10-17). Note: “under bondage” not same word a used for marriage bond.
D. The world and even brethren may make many exceptions but not God.

Conclusion:
A. “If you do marry...” be careful - make it scriptural and wise.
B. “If you do marry...” marry a faithful Christian.
C. “If you do marry...” honor it for life.