If You Marry
1 Cor. 7:25-28

Introduction:
A. Paul deals with marriage under extra-ordinary circumstances -- “present distress”.
   1. Discourages, but does not forbid marriage.
   2. Marriage preferred over immorality, even under “present distress” (v. 2,9).
B. One is given only three options under any circumstances.
   1. Married
   2. Unmarried (Celibate)
   3. Immorality.
C. Our subject is suggested by verse 28 — “If thou marry”

Discussion:
I. If You Marry – Marry Lawfully.
A. Lawful according to law of God.
   1. Marriage is a covenant (cf. Mal. 2:14)
      a. A covenant must be confirmed (publicly ratified) (Gal. 3:15)
      b. In our society it is ratified by civil authority— if resist we resist God’s ordinance (Rom. 13:1-2)
      c. It is not a private or mental act only before God – would throw institution into chaos.
   2. Divorce nullifies the covenant – not a mental or private act.
B. There are unlawful marriages according to God’s law (Mark 6:17,18).
   1. They are recognized as marriages in Bible, but unlawful/adulterous ones.
   2. It may be sanctioned by society and state, but not by God.
C. There are clear instructions as who may marry lawfully.
   1. One may marry if he/she has never been married.
   2. One may marry if he/she has been widowed (Rom. 7:1-3).
   3. One may marry if he/she is innocent and divorces a mate for fornication. (Matt. 19:9).
   4. One may marry if he/she marries of the opposite sex. (cf. Rom. 1:26-27)
   5. One may marry if he/she marries one who has a right to marry.

II. If You Marry – Marry Wisely.
A. Not every lawful thing is wise. (1 Cor 10:23; cf. Chapter 9)
B. Marriage can be difficult under best circumstances (cf. “Confused state of affairs”).
C. A marriage may be lawful, but inexpedient (1 Cor. 7:25-40).
   1. Culturally mixed marriages – may be some exceptions.
   2. Religiously mixed marriages (cf. 2 Cor. 6:14-17).
D. Results of unwise marriages are serious.
   1. A life with much “trouble in the flesh” (1 Cor. 7:28).
   2. Or, a broken marriage with all of its problems.

III. If You Marry – Marry Permanently.
A. The basic rule is marriage for life. (Rom. 7:1-3; Matt. 19:3-8).
B. One exception to that rule. (Matt. 5:32; Matt. 19:9).
   1. It gives one the right to divorce, not an obligation.
   2. It must the reason for putting away before – not an after thought.
C. Extreme circumstances may force some to live apart – but not divorce. (1 Cor. 7:10-17).
   1. If do divorce only two choices – remain unmarried or be reconciled.
   2. “Not under bondage” is not equal to “free to remarry”.

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