

1 Corinthians 7:29 (NASB)

29 But this I say, brethren, the time has been shortened, ...³¹ and those who use the world, as though they did not make full use of it; for the form of this world is passing away.

Time from Christ's death to the rapture.

The believer should hold all things but Christ with a loose hand.

This world has really no more permanence than the shifting scenes of a movie.

³²*But I want you to be free from concern. One who is unmarried is concerned about the things of the Lord, how he may please the Lord;*

³³*but one who is married is concerned about the things of the world, how he may please his wife,*

³⁴*and his interests are divided. And the woman who is unmarried, and the virgin, is concerned about the things of the Lord, that she may be holy both in body and spirit; but one who is married is concerned about the things of the world, how she may please her husband.*

THE SINGLE MARRIED

Belongs to the Lord (6:19)

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1 Corinthians 6:19-20 (NASB)

¹⁹ Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? ²⁰ For you have been bought with a price: therefore, glorify God in your body.

**Responsible only to the Lord
(7:32)**

Result: Simple concerns

**Responsible to the Lord +
one's marriage partner
(7:33)**

Result: Complex concerns

McCalley

A ministry of life, whether it be at **the kitchen sink**, or from the **First Church pulpit**, **must flow from the life of the Lord Jesus Christ**. That life must be developed in and shared through the **growing believer**, by the Holy Spirit. -M.J.S.

The quiet course of the two-fold work of the Spirit and the Cross - the **"not I" [death]**, and the **"but Christ" [Lamb-life]** - is what your **home needs, your school, your work, your world**. -M.J.S.

The Cross is not only involved in your life, but in your ministry, your outreach.

Whether you are utterly "alone" in this world, or "restricted" to raising your little ones, or "burdened" with shepherding a flock, the Lamb-life will flow, and feed.

William Newell comments on this spiritual paradox of **life out of death**:

What you communicate by words is what you are already bringing of the Lamb of the flock, for the Body is ministered to by a *communication of life*. And life is communicated to others, quite simply and spontaneously, as death operates in us. So the question is not, How much are you doing or saying? but, How much are you going through under the hand of God?

"There is no higher service than moral influence, '*thy whole body . . . full of light*'; and this, of all the highest moral order, is within the compass of all. '*Christ shall be magnified in my body whether by life or by death*' ([Phil. 1:20](#))." -J.B.S.

I press upon you that you cannot be a servant in heavenly power, nor can you be in consonance (harmony) with Christ's mind unless you are in conscious union with HIM. The effect of union with Him is that your individual interests are merged in Him; the Christ dwells in your heart by faith; and by His power you carry out His pleasure. -J.B.S.

It should also be noted that Paul does not teach us to neglect the responsibilities of marriage in order to serve the Lord. Once one marries, the responsibilities entailed should be fulfilled joyfully.

35 And this I say for your own benefit; not to put a restraint upon you, but to promote what is seemly, and to secure undistracted devotion to the Lord.” (NLT2)

35 I am saying this for your benefit, not to place restrictions on you. I want you to do whatever will help you serve the Lord best, with as few distractions as possible.

Comparing two equally committed Christians, an unmarried man can give more concentrated attention to the things of the Lord. A married man also needs to think about his family responsibilities. This is true of women, and particularly virgins, as well as men.

Some interpreters put more emphasis on the negative anxiety feeling while others stress the positive legitimate care that each person needs to show. Both aspects of concern are probably in view. Even though the unmarried state is desirable, it is not intrinsically better. Constable

NASB (NIV, NEB)

³⁶ *“But if any man thinks that he is acting unbecomingly toward his **virgin daughter**, if she should be of full age, and if it must be so, let him do what he wishes, he does not sin; let her marry.*

³⁷ *But he who stands firm in his heart, being under no constraint, but has authority over his own will, and has decided this in his own heart, to keep his **own virgin daughter**, he will do well.*

³⁸ *So then both he who **gives his own virgin daughter** in marriage does well, and he who does not give her in marriage will do better.*

(Darby) NLT2

³⁶ *But if any one think that he behaves unseemly **to his virginity**, if he be beyond the flower of his age, and so it must be, let him do what he will, he does not sin: let them marry.*

³⁷ *But he who stands firm in his heart, having no need, but has authority over his own will, and has judged this in his heart **to keep his own virginity**, he does well.*

³⁸ *So that he that **marries himself** does well; and he that does not marry does better.*

(NLT2)

³⁶ *But if a man thinks that he's **treating his fiancée improperly** and will inevitably give in to his passion, **let him marry her** as he wishes. It is not a sin.*

³⁷ *But if he **has decided firmly not to marry** and there is no urgency and he can control his passion, he does well not to marry.*

³⁸ *So the person who **marries his fiancée does well**, and the person who doesn't marry does even better.*

McCalley

In the times of Paul, the father arranged the marriage of his daughter; this is what is in view in these three verses.

Constable

Probably the man in view is the fiancé of the virgin who is considering the possibility of marriage with her.

Kelly

If it mean one's persevering unmarried himself, it is easy to see the force of all; as to a daughter or ward, it seems out of the way.

Ironside

Whether you keep your virginity or whether you do not you are doing well, if unto to the Lord.

39**A wife is bound as long as her husband lives; but if her husband is dead, she is free to be married to whom she wishes, **only in the Lord.

***40**But in my opinion she is happier if she remains as she is; and I think that I also have the Spirit of God.”*

- Again Paul referred to marriage as a binding relationship.
- Jesus taught that fornication may break the marriage bond if the marriage partners do not reunite. **Matt. 19:9 (NASB)**
- Paul qualifies her marrying again “**only in the Lord**”: a phrase which goes farther than the fact that both are Christians.
- The Lord gave me this husband or wife. The Lord will give me the grace to get along with him or her. When we know our marriage is of the Lord He will enable us to get through to His honor and glory. HAI