



THE MESSENGER

MARCH 6, 2022

NEWS AND NOTES

Congregational Meeting
March 13

Weekly Bible Studies
Tuesdays on Zoom
Friday, 12:30, Fayette Mall
food court

Saturday, 10, Panera
(Georgetown)

Times of Service
Sunday

Bible study: 9:45 AM
Worship: 10:45 AM; 6 PM

Wednesday
Bible study: 7:30 PM
(Immediately followed by a
short worship service)

First Friday of Month
Singing
March 4, 7:30

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"I, NOT THE LORD"

This is the penultimate article in our 1 Corinthians 7 series as we respond to questions from the chapter. This article will focus upon the following question: "What does Paul mean in verses 10-12? Was he speaking by inspiration, especially in verse 12, or sort of 'making it up as he goes'?"

Verses 10-12 says, "*To the married I give this charge (not I, but the Lord): the wife should not separate from her husband (but if she does, she should remain unmarried or else be reconciled to her husband), and the husband should not divorce his wife. To the rest I say, (I, not the Lord) that if any brother has a wife who is an unbeliever, and she consents to live with him, he should not divorce her.*"

During his ministry, Jesus had spoken specifically about the matter Paul addressed in verses 10-11. Take a moment to read Matthew 5:32, 19:9, Mark 10:11-12. However, Jesus did not personally address *every* situation that would arise. For instance, Jesus never said what to do in situations where one spouse became a believer while the other did not. Should the believer remain married to them? What if the unbeliever decides to leave? This is what Paul is discussing in verses 12-16.

In light of this I would suggest that Paul's words, "I, not the Lord" do not reflect upon the inspiration of the statement at all. I believe the only difference between "Not I, but the Lord" (10), and "I, not the Lord" (12) is that the first comes from the actual words of Jesus during his ministry while the second comes to Paul through inspiration. If one questions whether the teaching of verses 12-16 should be obeyed, they would have to admit Paul *expects* to be obeyed should the situation arise. 1 Corinthians 14:37 helps here. Paul claims

Members Needing Our Prayers

Rick Small, Jill Harrison, Ralph Fox, Benny Poynter, Janet Brundige, Joyce Bolton and family, Karen Spivey, Rhonda Boyd, Cindy Bradbury, Paul Atkisson

Others Needing Prayers

Allison Walker, Dwight Antle, Randy Cates, Larry McTeer, Charlene Michael, Ann Little, Mary Jean Snyder, Mark Nickles, Dale Lyons, Adam Fusco, Rachel and Sarah White, Duane Harrod, Grace Meyer, Meredith Nicholson, Alice and Lonnie Anderson, Glen Perkins, Ethan Shelton, Terry Daniels, Leroy Weatherholt, Robert Brundige, John Blessing, William Roberts, Paul and Marrian Lyda, Dana and her children, Shane (a relative of Cindi), Ron Harmon, Debbie Lanphear, Veronica Bowman

To Our Guests

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his teaching in that chapter is a “command of the Lord.” However, one will search the gospels in vain trying to find Jesus addressing the specific issues mentioned by Paul. Is this a problem? No, it’s *inspiration*. 7:12-16 is the same.

There *is* a place in 1 Corinthians 7 where Paul specifically says he is offering his own judgment. Verse 25 says, “*Now concerning the betrothed, I have no command from the Lord, but I give my judgment as one who by the Lord’s mercy is trustworthy.*” It is not wrong to claim Paul is stating his opinion here. Indeed, he seems to be saying just that. Please note that he specifically tells his readers when he’s doing it. Notice also the obvious difference in the tone of verses 25-40 and 12-16. In the former he is offering his trustworthy and considered opinion, but allows that some may not choose to follow it. That’s okay. In the latter, he offers commands (esp. verses 12-13) and expects them to be obeyed. That’s quite a difference, isn’t it? I pray that this has been helpful.

Adam Litmer

Elders	Deacons	Evangelist
Troy Antle	Richard Brundige	Adam Litmer
David Collins	Adam Daniels	
	Adam Litmer	
	Frank Patton	
	Jamie Powell	
	Pat Seabolt	
	Matt Thompson	
	James Weatherholt	

