



THE MESSENGER

FEBRUARY 27, 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

Address and Contact

University Heights Church of
Christ
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PERMANENT LEGAL SEPARATIONS

The next question we will consider from 1 Corinthians 7 was submitted a few weeks ago. The questioner asks: “Where is the biblical authority for a permanent legal separation between a man and his wife? In light of 1 Corinthians 7, why are some Christians getting separations?”

In responding I will confine myself to 1 Corinthians 7, specifically verses 12-16 as these are the verses typically used for divorce or separation from this chapter. In this article I am only seeking to answer the question as it has been asked. While I cannot speak to the motives behind the actions of other Christians without them telling me, it could be the questioner has heard brethren justify permanent legal separations using 1 Corinthians 7:12-16.

Before continuing I would advise reading those verses as well as using your phone to get a good definition of legal separation. I used the definition given by the Ohio State Bar Association. In short, a legal separation does not dissolve the marriage and allows for one separating spouse to continue on another’s medical insurance along with a handful of other financial benefits. Time with children and the dividing of property is usually determined by the husband and wife rather than the courts. While some eventually reunite, more often than not divorce occurs. Again, look it up for yourself to get a full legal definition.

It is my conviction that 1 Corinthians 7 does *not* authorize permanent legal separation. Let’s consider verses 12-16. For space reasons I will not be writing out the verses here, so please have your Bible open.

Verses 12 and 13 are specifically about divorce. Many were already married when they first heard the gospel and

Members Needing Our Prayers

Larry Billiter, 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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believed. Not every spouse became a Christian. Did divorce need to occur *because* of that? No, says Paul. If the unbelieving spouse consents to live with the believer, there should be no divorce.

I believe verse 14 speaks to the setting for the unbeliever and the children the marriage produces. While salvation does not transfer to them, they are in a setting conducive to benefiting from a wonderful influence and, prayerfully, coming to belief themselves.

Verses 15-16 shows the other side of the coin. The unbeliever may choose to separate which, I believe, is synonymous with divorce (12-13) in this context. In such cases the believing spouse is not enslaved in the hope that perhaps they can change their mind and even lead them to belief in Christ.

Once more, I do *not* believe these verses provide justification for permanent legal separation. Indeed, they are not about that at all.

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	

