

Scripture

1 Corinthians 7:29-40 (NLT)

29 But let me say this, dear brothers and sisters: The time that remains is very short. So from now on, those with wives should not focus only on their marriage. **30** Those who weep or who rejoice or who buy things should not be absorbed by their weeping or their joy or their possessions. **31** Those who use the things of the world should not become attached to them. For this world as we know it will soon pass away.

32 I want you to be free from the concerns of this life. An unmarried man can spend his time doing the Lord's work and thinking how to please him. **33** But a married man has to think about his earthly responsibilities and how to please his wife. **34** His interests are divided. In the same way, a woman who is no longer married or has never been married can be devoted to the Lord and holy in body and in spirit. But a married woman has to think about her earthly responsibilities and how to please her husband.

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.

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.

39 A wife is bound to her husband as long as he lives. If her husband dies, she is free to marry anyone she wishes, but only if he loves the Lord. **40** But in my opinion it would be better for her to stay single, and I think I am giving you counsel from God's Spirit when I say this.