

**A.L.I.V.E. Bible Study**  
**Date: March 31, 2019**  
**1 Corinthians 7:17-40**

1. What did we talk about last week in 7:1-16?
  - a. Paul's suggestion for people to remain unmarried.
  - b. Paul's concession that people would be better off being married than burning with passion and giving in to sexual immorality.
  - c. Paul's instructions that married couples belong to one another and are truly one flesh.
  
2. What does Paul say in verses 17-28?
  - a. Each person should live as a believer in whatever situation the Lord has assigned to them (verse 17).
  - b. If you are circumcised or uncircumcised, remain that way. Circumcision doesn't matter, only following God's commands matters (verses 18-20).
  - c. If you were a slave when you came to Christ, don't let it trouble you. If you can gain your freedom, do, but even you can't, you are free in Christ! Anyway, if you were free, you would be called Christ's slave because you were bought at a price (verses 21-24).
  - d. If you are a virgin (meaning unmarried, since everyone who is unmarried should be a virgin!), stay as you are. If you are already pledged to a woman do not get out of it. (verses 25-28).
  
3. Why is Paul saying these things, according to verses 29-34?
  - a. I don't know, it all sounds like he's lost his mind to me!
  - b. Because the time is short. He believes that Jesus will come back any day and does not think we should be trying to change our situation and concerning ourselves with things that will all go away when Christ returns anyway. Rather, he thinks we should be concerned only with the things of God.
  - c. He wants us to be "free of concern" and unhindered by other commitments that might divide our loyalty to Christ.
  
4. Why, according to verse 35, is Paul saying these things? \_\_\_\_\_  
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5. Are these matters discussed here issues of sin, according to verses 36-38? Yes \_\_\_\_\_  
No \_\_\_\_\_ Explain. \_\_\_\_\_  
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6. How is this different from some of the other instructions Paul has given in previous texts?  
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7. What does Paul say about those who are widowed, according to verses 39-40 \_\_\_\_\_  
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8. Are there things that might be wise and for our own good that Christian leaders might suggest that are not necessarily commands of God? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ How do we respond to them? \_\_\_\_\_  
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