

1Corinthians 7:1 Now concerning the matters about which you wrote. **It is good for a man not to touch a woman.** ² But because of the temptation to immorality, each man should have his own wife and each woman her own husband. . .

⁶ I say this by way of concession, not of command. ⁷ I wish that all were as I myself am. But each has his own special gift from God, one of one kind and one of another.

1Cor. 7:8 To the unmarried and the widows I say that **it is well for them to remain single as I do.** ⁹ But if they cannot exercise self-control, they should marry. For it is better to marry than to be aflame with passion.

1Cor. 7:25 Now concerning the single youth (lit. virgins), I have no command of the Lord, but I give my opinion as one who by the Lord's mercy is trustworthy. ²⁶ I think that in view of the **present distress it is well for a person to remain as he is.** ²⁷ Are you bound to a wife? Do not seek to be free. Are you free from a wife? Do not seek marriage. ²⁸ But if you marry, you do not sin, and if a girl marries she does not sin. Yet those who marry will have worldly troubles, and I would spare you that. ²⁹ I mean, brethren, **the appointed time has grown very short**; from now on, let those who have wives live as though they had none, ³⁰ and those who mourn as though they were not mourning, and those who rejoice as though they were not rejoicing, and those who buy as though they had no goods, ³¹ and those who deal with the world as though they had no dealings with it. **For the form of this world is passing away.**

1Cor. 7:32 I want you to be free from anxieties. **The unmarried man is anxious about the affairs of the Lord, how to please the Lord;** ³³ but the married man is anxious about worldly affairs, how to please his wife, ³⁴ and his interests are divided. And the unmarried woman or girl is anxious about the affairs of the Lord, how to be holy in body and spirit; but the married woman is anxious about worldly affairs, how to please her husband. ³⁵ I say this for your own benefit, not to lay any restraint

upon you, but to promote good order and to secure your undivided devotion to the Lord.

1Cor. 7:36 If any one thinks that he is not behaving properly toward his betrothed, if his passions are strong, and it has to be, let him do as he wishes: let them marry — it is no sin. ³⁷ But whoever is firmly established in his heart, being under no necessity but having his desire under control, and has determined this in his heart, to keep her as his betrothed, he will do well. ³⁸ So that he who marries his betrothed does well; and he who refrains from marriage will do better.

Later Letters attributed to Paul

1Timothy 5:3 Honor widows who are real widows. . . ⁵ She who is a real widow, and is left all alone, has set her hope on God and continues in supplications and prayers night and day; ⁶ whereas she who is self-indulgent is dead even while she lives. ⁷ Command this, so that they may be without reproach. ⁸ If any one does not provide for his relatives, and especially for his own family, he has disowned the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.

1Tim. 5:9 Let a widow be enrolled if she is not less than sixty years of age, having been the wife of one husband; ¹¹ But refuse to enroll younger widows; for when they grow wanton against Christ they desire to marry, ¹² and so they incur condemnation for having violated their first pledge.