

Christ-Centered Journey

1 Cor. 7:17-40

God calls Christians to an odd kind of life — one that is lived in the present, transient world but lived for the future, eternal world. Paul's language is pretty strong here. At first glance, it can appear as if he is commanding Christians to be functionally and emotionally detached from the roles and realities they must live in every day. But I don't believe that's what he's doing. He isn't telling husbands to stop loving and serving their wives. He isn't instructing those who are burdened by worldly troubles or delighted by worldly blessings to pretend as if those troubles and blessings don't exist. He is calling us to embrace a particular disposition in our dealings with the world that will free us from the anxieties to which we are so prone... Like so many people, most of [our] worries are rooted in an over-attachment to transient things.

Our all-wise God, through Paul's writing, is calling us to loosen our grip on the things of this fading world and grasp tightly to the right objects: Christ and his eternal Kingdom. He is urging us to "set [our] minds on things that are above" (Colossians 3:2) as we engage in the affairs of this life below. He is commanding us to look ahead to the permanent city of God (Hebrews 11:10) as we sojourn in our temporary cities. He is exhorting us to set the eyes of our hearts not on the transient things that are seen but the eternal things that are invisible (2 Corinthians 4:18). Matt Moore

- I. The rule God lays down for all of us, is to live the Christian life well in whatever place we find ourselves in as followers of Jesus Christ. What is of utmost importance to the Lord, is for us to obey his commands no matter what our circumstances might be. He expects us to conform to his ways alone in the life situation he has us walking in.

1 Cor. 7:17-20

Romans 12:2a *Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.*

- II. What is of utmost importance to the Lord is that we keep ourselves free from serving man over serving Christ. We are bondservants of Christ, not bondservants of men. Therefore, we need to be careful that no one steals our devotion to Christ in ways that could cause us to take our eyes off the author and perfecter of our faith.

1 Cor. 7:21-24

Heb. 12:1-3

δοῦλος δοῦλος - a slave, bondman, man of servile condition, a slave. metaph., one who gives himself up to another's will those whose service is used by Christ in extending and advancing his cause among men, devoted to another to the disregard of one's own interests

Proverbs 29:25 *Fear of man will prove to be a snare, but whoever trust in the LORD is kept safe.*

- III. What is of utmost importance to the Lord is that we live life with the understanding that we are living a very temporary existence in a world that is passing away. The time has been shortened by God to hasten Jesus' immanent return. With this in mind, we must put Christ first in every situation he has called us to walk in as we vigilantly keep watch for him.

1 Cor. 7:25-40

Matt. 6:19-21

Matt. 24:44

Matt. 25:19

2 Peter 3:11b-12a *You ought to live holy and godly lives as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming.*

"As God is exalted to the right place in our lives, a thousand problems are solved all at once." – A.W. Tozer