

# DEALING WITH PROBLEMS

## A Study of 1 Corinthians



### 3. Difficulties in Relationships

#### Introduction

Corinth was the largest city in Greece at the time of the Apostle Paul and was known for its' wealth. The popular religion was the worship of the 'goddess of love' and immorality was rampant. The culture of that day influenced the new believers, in the same way as the church today struggles with our worldly culture. It's not surprising then that there were issues regarding sexual relationships.

Scripture Reading: 1 Corinthians 5 - 7

#### 1. The problem of ungodly sexual relationships

- ✘ What was the specific problem the church in Corinth was facing? 1 Corinthians 5:1, 9; 7:1-2
- ✘ Why are sexual sins so damaging? 1 Corinthians 6:9, 15-16, 18
- ✘ How is the church to respond to those living in sin - To those who are believers? 1 Corinthians 5:2, 11-12  
- To those who are unbelievers? 5:9-10, 12-13
- ✘ Whatever our past has been like, how does God see us now? 1 Corinthians 6:11. In light of this, how are we to see one another? Why do we find this difficult to do? Discuss.

#### 2. The Marriage Relationship

- ✘ What advice does Paul give to married couples regarding their sexual relationship and why? 1 Corinthians 7:2-6
- ✘ What is a husband or wife to do if their spouse is not a believer? 1 Corinthians 7:12-17, 24
- ✘ Although there are situations that cause marriages to break, what is God's intention for marriage? 1 Corinthians 7:10-11, 39
- ✘ For those who are married, take time to think about Paul's advice. How can you build your own marriage to make it better?

#### 3. The Single Life

- ✘ The Apostle Paul was single! What advantages did he think there were in being single? 1 Corinthians 7:7, 32-35

- ✘ What advice does he give to those who are single? 1 Corinthians 7:8-9
- ✘ If you are single at this time, is there anything Paul says that has encouraged or challenged you?

#### **4. The Widow and Widower**

- ✘ Can someone who is widowed get married again? 1 Corinthians 7:39-40
- ✘ What does it mean in v39 when it says, “she is free to marry anyone she wishes, but he must belong to the Lord?” Also see 2 Corinthians 6:14-16
- ✘ In some cultures it is considered wrong to marry again if the spouse dies. Why is this? As Christians what should our attitude be?

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- ✘ What thought will you take away from this study?

#### **Conclusion**

We now belong to the Lord Jesus. Whatever happened in our past, we have now been washed clean by the blood of Jesus. He no longer remembers our sin, and we are also to forgive others and not hold their sin against them. In the chapters we have studied from the letter Paul wrote to the Corinthians, there are practical suggestions to help us guard our lives from sin, whether we are still single, or already married.