

“ANSWER THE CALL, HERE AND NOW”
1 Corinthians 7:17-24

INTRODUCTION

Paul is still answering questions about marriage from the Corinthians in this section. While they have not been commended up to this point, at least they are teachable! This is a healthy sign! They want to be doers of the Word. If you are a sponge of the Word, you will be rewarded, **Hebrews 11:6**. Keep asking, seeking and knocking! It is very normal to be inquisitive about origins, prophecy, apologetics and living for Jesus!

WHATEVER YOUR SITUATION, DON'T SEEK TO LEAVE IT!

The “calling” is our theme in this passage. God has assigned us to our particular situations or opportunities for a reason! (This is a personal calling, not necessarily a vocation.) Our calling is a holy calling, a call to holiness. **“who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began,” 2 Timothy 1:9; “For God did not call us to uncleanness, but in holiness”, 1 Thess. 4:7; “...walk worthy of the calling with which you were called”, Ephesians 4:1.**

The church is made up of Jews and Gentiles. Gentiles don't have to be Jews, and Jews don't have to be Gentiles. Paul and Barnabas stood up and supported that view. Gentiles don't need that extra yoke upon them, **Acts 15**. Our emphasis should be on inner change!

Remain where you are called! Shine as a light. Some cut off old friendships when they could be a light to them. Others have the “grass is greener on the other side” mentality. We should not over glamorize the mission field as if we have to go away to serve. If we are not careful, we can waste a lot of time and energy trying to be somewhere else, when the Lord wants us to be right where we are! Examples of those who adapted to their environments are Joseph, Daniel and Paul. They recognized their calling in the place where they were at the moment. *Don't miss the assignment right in front of you!*

DON'T WAIT TO SERVE!

Christianity is the original melting pot between Jews, Gentiles, men, women, slaves, free persons, married and unmarried. Some feel that they will serve once their situation changes. They may feel that there is now not enough time, or they are involved with other activities that seemingly hinder serving the Lord. In most of these cases, they insist that there may be a better time, but often a better time never comes! **Proverbs 27:1**. Procrastination is a thief! There is no time like the present! **“Behold, now is the accepted time; behold now is the day of salvation.” 2 Corinthians 6:2.**

CONSIDER

God has given you an assignment. You are “called”. It is a glorious privilege! He loves you, picked you and entrusts much to you! All you have to do is answer the call, whatever it may be.

Certainly, the Lord does move people to different locations or situations, but often we avoid or discount the circumstances that we are currently in. *What is the assignment that you have now? Have you avoided serving the Lord? Do you see yourself as a “missionary” in your current situation?* Let's all be busy about the Lord's business as he opens to us opportunities!

(All scripture quotations are NKJV).

PRAY

- * for the Men's Retreat at LeTourneau, that men would be strengthened to stand for our Lord.
- * for the Women's' Retreat, “The Way Home”. May the Lord save and deliver those who have been running from Him!
- * for the Veterans Day Assembly on Monday, November 12th. Many vets need inner rest!