

**Life Together Group Questions**  
**February 12, 2017**  
**1 Corinthians 7:10-16**

1. As Paul starts his instruction to the married Corinthians (vs.10) he references the teaching of the Lord in the matter of divorce. What had Jesus taught? (See Matt.19:3-9; Deut.24:1) How does the issue of “hardness of heart” come into play?
2. In vs. 11 Paul commands that if there is divorce that the couple not remarry in order for there to be reconciliation in the marriage. How does Deut. 24:2-4 inform us on that?
3. What does faith in Christ bring to bear as far as staying married and even being reconciled? How does a passage like Eph. 5:22-35 encourage faith in this area? How about Col. 3:12-14? How would the practice of being reconciled to one another every day make an impact?
4. How is marriage between believers to reflect Christ and the Church?
5. Even if you are single, what is something you can take home in your relationships?
6. (Read vss. 12-14) If you found yourself married to an unbeliever what thoughts might course through your mind as to whether you should stay married or not?
7. What are the challenges that take place in a marriage between a believer and unbeliever?
8. What encouragement does Paul bring to those married to unbelievers? What comfort can the believing spouse take and what benefit is derived by the unbelieving spouse and their children? How does God see their marriage?
9. Most likely these believing spouses found themselves married to unbelievers because they had recently come to faith in Christ themselves. What instruction would Paul give a single believer considering marriage to an unbeliever? (2 Cor. 6:14-18) Is this a contradiction?
10. What do you make of the release that Paul gives the believing spouse when abandoned by the unbelieving spouse in vs. 15?
11. Paul notes that we are called to “peace” at the end of vs.15. (see Rom 12:18; Matt. 4:5) How does an understanding of “peace” including an aspect of reconciliation refocus this phrase? (See Eph. 2:11-18)
12. Pastor Nathan talked of a hopeful understanding of vs 16 rather than a pessimistic reading, “*Don't you wives realize that your husbands might be saved because of you? And don't you husbands realize that your wives might be saved because of you?*” (NLT) The same construction found in the Greek translation of the OT passages like. 2 Sam. 12:22; Est. 4:14; Joel 2:14; Jon. 3:9. How does that illustrate God’s redemptive purposes in marriage? (see 1 Pet. 3:1-2)

**SERMON OUTLINE:**

1. **A Reframe of Freedom** – 1 Cor. 7:10-11
2. **Redemptive Hope of Remaining Married To An Unbeliever** - 1 Cor. 7:12-14
3. **A Reason For Release** – 1 Cor. 7:15a,b
4. **A Case For Hope** – 1 Cor. 7:15c-16