



# 1 Corinthians

MESSY CHURCH  
MIGHTY CHRIST

# **1 Corinthians 7:17-24**

**17** Let each one live his life in the situation the Lord assigned when God called him. This is what I command in all the churches. **18** Was anyone already circumcised when he was called? He should not undo his circumcision. Was anyone called while uncircumcised? He should not get circumcised. ...

19 Circumcision does not matter and uncircumcision does not matter. Keeping God's commands is what matters. 20 Let each of you remain in the situation in which he was called. 21 Were you called while a slave? Don't let it concern you. But if you can become free, by all means take the opportunity. 22 For he who is called by the Lord as a slave is the Lord's freedman. Likewise he who is called as a free man is Christ's slave. ...

23 You were bought at a price; do not become slaves of people. 24 Brothers and sisters, each person is to remain with God in the situation in which he was called.

## **MAIN IDEA**

**In 1 Corinthians 7:17–24, Paul presents two illustrations of how God's saving call reorients our understanding of every earthly circumstance so that we will faithfully remain with God wherever He's got us.**

# **THE CONTROLLING PRINCIPLE**

## **(v. 17)**

Let each one live his life in the situation the Lord assigned when God called him. This is what I command in all the churches.

— **1 Corinthians 7:17**

**CIRCUMCISION:  
God's Saving Call Reorients Our Deepest Identity  
(vv. 18-20)**

18 Was anyone already circumcised when he was called? He should not undo his circumcision. Was anyone called while uncircumcised? He should not get circumcised. 19 Circumcision does not matter and uncircumcision does not matter. Keeping God's commands is what matters. 20 Let each of you remain in the situation in which he was called.

— **1 Corinthians 7:18-20**

...the LORD your God will circumcise your heart and the heart of your offspring, so that you will love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, that you may live.

— **Deuteronomy 30:6**

28 ...a person is not a Jew who is one outwardly,  
and true circumcision is not something visible in the  
flesh. 29 On the contrary, a person is a Jew who is  
one inwardly, and circumcision is of the heart—by  
the Spirit, not the letter.

— **Romans 2:28-29**

Let each of you remain in the situation in which he was called.

— **1 Corinthians 7:20**

**SLAVERY:  
God's Saving Call  
Reorients Our Deepest Significance  
(vv. 21-24)**

21 Were you called while a slave? Don't let it concern you. But if you can become free, by all means take the opportunity. 22 For he who is called by the Lord as a slave is the Lord's freedman. Likewise he who is called as a free man is Christ's slave. 23 You were bought at a price; do not become slaves of people. 24 Brothers and sisters, each person is to remain with God in the situation in which he was called.

— **1 Corinthians 7:22-24**

In Christ there is not Greek and Jew, circumcision and uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, slave and free; but Christ is all and in all.

— **Colossians 3:11**

21 Were you called while a slave? Don't let it concern you. But if you can become free, by all means take the opportunity. 22 For he who is called by the Lord as a slave is the Lord's freedman. Likewise he who is called as a free man is Christ's slave. 23 You were bought at a price; do not become slaves of people. 24 Brothers and sisters, each person is to remain with God in the situation in which he was called.

— **1 Corinthians 7:22-24**

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