

# Sermon Study Questions

## Sunday, February 11, 2024

1. Read 1 Corinthians 7:17-40
2. There are three issues Paul addresses here. What are they, and what unites them together?
3. In speaking about circumcision, Paul says each one should remain in the condition in which he was called. Why does he say this? Is there any application for you in this exhortation, and if so, where?
4. In addressing bondservants, Paul likewise tells them to remain in the condition they were in when called. In essence he's telling them to not seek to change their status, yet at the same time he does tell that if they can secure their freedom, to do so. Why does he say these things to them?
5. Though none of us are bondservants there is application for us when they are addressed, as in a certain sense what Paul says to them applies to us in our vocations. With that said, what point of application can you make for yourself in your work/career/vocation in thinking about his exhortation to bondservants?
6. One commentator said that in referring to a person who comes to faith in Christ, "A man is not called to a new occupation, rather his old occupation is given new significance." In light of your faith in Christ, what significance do you find in your work?
7. The key to understanding all that Paul says in this section which begins with him addressing the betrothed is to realize its context. Paul makes this clear by saying, "In view of the present distress." (v.26). What is the present distress he was talking about? How does this shape what he says about one's current status as single or married?
8. In v.35 Paul tells us his ultimate goal in view of the present distress. What is it? How does this help you to understand v.29-31?
9. What did you learn from this text/sermon, and what can you apply?
10. Pray!

### Reading of Law: Galatians 5:13

For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.

### Prayer of Confession:

Our wonderful Father in Heaven, we come before you in the name of Jesus Christ, looking to Him and His righteousness and not our own. We confess we are sinful and selfish in ways that are far deeper than we perceive. We are those who desire to have others serve us, rather than serve them, and when we do serve others, we secretly hope that people are watching and noticing so that we will be applauded by them. Moreover, we are hoping to impress you and earn your favor and blessings as payment for our works of service. Thus, in the end our service towards others is actually directed towards ourselves as we use our service in an attempt to influence you and bolster our reputation in the eyes of a watching world. Truly, in the deepest parts of our hearts we are all about self. We confess this, and we ask you to forgive us. We thank you for the forgiveness we have through faith in Jesus Christ, and that in Him you see us as perfectly righteous. We thank. We praise you. In Jesus' name, Amen!

### **Assurance of Forgiveness: Romans 3:23-24**

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, <sup>24</sup> and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.

### **WLC: 114**

**Q.** 114. What reasons are annexed to the third commandment?

**A.** The reasons annexed to the third commandment, in these words, "The Lord thy God," and "for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that takes his name in vain" are, because he is the Lord and our God, therefore his name is not to be profaned or any way abused by us; especially because he will be so far from acquitting and sparing the transgressors of this commandment, as that he will not suffer them to escape his righteous judgment, albeit many such escape the censures and punishments of men.

[Ex. 20:7](#); [Lev. 19:12](#); [Ezek. 36:21-23](#); [Deut. 28:58-59](#); [Zech. 5:2-4](#); [1 Sam. 2:12, 17, 22, 24](#); [1 Sam. 3:13](#).