

# The Vincennes Voice

*"...The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight..." (Matt. 3:3)*

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## I CORINTHIANS 7 TRUTHS

Larry R. Ping II

Much disinformation, over the years, has been circulated concerning I Cor. 7. Many things have been erroneously taught, ignorantly or on purpose. Be sure to understand the following truths, and be sure not to be involved in spreading “fake news” about this chapter.

**1. This Chapter Does Not Permit Marital Separation For Just Any Cause.** In truth, it does not speak of “marital separation” as we might know it. Paul, inspired by the Holy Ghost wrote “Defraud ye not one the other, except it be with consent for a time, that ye may give yourselves to fasting and prayer” (I Cor. 7:5). Paul is addressing physical separation, only for the cause of spiritual and religious reasons.

**2. This Chapter Does Not Find Paul Banning Marriage.** Paul, on numerous occasions wrote he desired for others to be as he (I Cor. 7:7,8). But in no place did he outlaw being married. In fact, he penned “But and if thou marry, thou hast not sinned; and if a virgin marry, she hath not sinned” (I Cor. 7:28). This is encouraged to “avoid fornication” (I Cor. 7:2).

**3. This Chapter Does Not Teach About Burning In Hell.** This mistaken teaching emanates from I Cor. 7:9 which iterates “But if they cannot contain, let them marry: for it is better to marry than to burn.” The burning in this place is with reference to burning “in lust.”

**4. This Chapter Does Not Contain Paul’s Own Opinions.** Sitting in a recent Bible study of I Cor. 7, it was said Paul was offering his personal opinions in verses 10 and 25. This cannot be true, as “All scripture is given by inspiration of God” (II Tim. 3:16). In both cases, Paul was addressing a subject the Lord had not. In both cases, he was writing under the direct influence of the Holy Spirit (I Cor. 2:10, II Pet. 1:20-21). In both cases, we are to understand what Paul wrote was to be considered “the commandments of the Lord” (I Cor. 14:37). Let it be noted how treacherous it is to teach Paul was personally opining. In doing so, the door is opened for others to fairly ask if other authors were offering their opinion as well. Each word read in the Bible is the Word of God, nothing more and nothing less (I Thess. 2:13).

**5. This Chapter Does Not Have A “Pauline Privilege.”** Some have twisted Paul’s writings (II Pet. 3:16). That is, they are teaching Paul is allowing additional reasons for divorce than the Lord’s singular exception in Matt. 5:32 and Matt. 19:9. The error comes when allowing the words “if she depart” (I Cor. 7:11) to mean divorce is permissible for any cause so long as there is no subsequent marriage following. The words of God’s Son are contrary to this when He said “What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder” (Matt. 19:6).

**6. This Chapter Does Not Teach A Widow Can Only Marry A Christian.** Such teaching is derived from I Cor. 7:39 which says “The wife is bound by the law as long as her husband liveth; but if her husband be dead, she is at liberty to be married to whom she will; only in the Lord.” The words “in the Lord” signify one having the Biblical right to be married, just as the phrase in Eph. 6:1 calls children to obey parents who teach that which is Biblically right.

# WHY SOME WILL NOT ENDURE SOUND DOCTRINE

Larry R. Ping II

Paul penned “For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine” (II Tim. 4:3). Sound doctrine is that which is “healthy, wholesome and pure.” Sadly, some will not endure sound doctrine because...

**1. They Submit To Their Own Lusts.** Such was alleged in II Tim. 4:3. Instead of wanting to hear what they need, they clamor to hear what they want. They yearn for preaching which makes them feel good, rather than for preaching which alerts them as to what they “must do” (Acts 9:6).

**2. They Have Itching Ears.** Paul mentioned this in II Tim. 4:3. Those with these kinds of ears are those who only want to hear sermons about certain topics. They do not understand preaching needs to be balanced, witnessed by Paul’s words “Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine” (II Tim. 4:2). People of God need to be as Cornelius who wanted to “hear all things that are commanded thee of God” (Acts 10:33). As said David, so say we, “I have respect unto all thy commandments” (Psa. 119:6).

**3. They Have Selective Hearing.** Paul said some “shall turn away their ears from the truth” (II Tim. 4:4). The wise man warned “He that turneth away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer shall be abomination” (Prov. 28:9). Many today like to hear the “positive” things of God’s Word, subjects like grace, mercy, hope and Heaven. The same individual, though, will show disdain to topics like obedience, accountability, responsibility and Hell. This cannot be so! What we want to declared is “all the counsel of God” (Acts 20:27).

**4. They Have A Fondness For Fables.** Paul cautioned some will “be turned unto fables” (II Tim. 4:4). The word “fable” here carries with it the suggestion of declaring inanimate objects real, or of making something false true. This happens when listeners are turned away by the “wisdom of men” (I Cor. 2:5). The Apostle informed his readers “the world by wisdom knew not God” (I Cor. 1:21). When the world and its teachings are permitted to subvert the mind, the bending to fables begins. Let it not be so.

**5. They Have No Hunger For Righteousness.** This is so even though the Lord said “Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled” (Matt. 5:6). Some just have a very low appetite for truth and solid Gospel preaching. They would prefer to hear the stories, jokes and anecdotes. Some today are like Naaman of old who preferred to dip in his own rivers rather than the Jordan (II Kings 5:12). Yet others are as the rich, young man who “went away sorrowful” (Matt. 19:22) after hearing the truth. We should be as the Psalmist and say “Thy testimonies also are my delight and my counselors” (Psa. 119:24).

**6. They Have No Desire To Walk In The Truth.** They have adopted the indifferent and apathetic attitude of the Laodiceans of whom it was said “So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth” (Rev. 3:16). Some have become as those of old who were “not at all ashamed” (Jer. 6:16) of sin. God’s people always show concern and interest in the Divine Word!

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## MEETING TIMES (EST)

SUNDAY  
Bible Study – 10:00 am  
Worship – 11:00 am & 3:00 pm

WEDNESDAY  
Bible Study – 7:00 pm