PATTERNS OF CHRISTIAN SEXUALITY: (I) Equality in Conjugal Rights I Cor 7:1-5

1. Now concerning the matters about which you wrote.

"Is it well for a man not to touch a woman?"

- 2. Now because of *immorality*, MARITAL RELATIONS each *man* should *have* (relations with) *his own wife* IMPORTANT (temp.) and each *woman* should have (relations with) *her own husband*.
- 3. The *husband* should give to his *wife* her (conjugal) *rights*, GIVE and likewise the *wife* to her *husband*. RIGHTS
- 4. For the *wife does not rule* over *her own body*, HUSBAND but the **husband does**; RULES WIFE
- 5. likewise the *husband does not rule* over *his own body*, but the *wife does*. WIFE RULES HUSBAND
- 6. Do *not refuse* one another GIVE except by *agreement* for a season, that you may *devote* yourselves to *praye*r;
- 7. but then *come together* again, MARITAL RELATIONS *lest Satan tempt* you through *lack of self-control*. IMPORTANT (temp.)

1. I say this by way of concession, not of command, I WISH ALL and I wish that all were as I myself am. REMAIN AS I AM 2. But each has his own special spiritual gift from God, DIFFERENT one of one kind and one of another. SPIRITUAL GIFTS (kharismata) Widows and Widowers 3. To the widowers (a-gamos, de-married) and widows I say I WISH THE DE-MARRIED that it is well for them to remain as I. REMAIN AS I AM 4. But if they cannot exercise control they should marry. SOME CAN For it is better to marry than to burn. SOME CAN'T Married to believers 5. To the married I give charge, not I but the Lord, that the wife should not separate from her husband **SEPARATION** but if she does, let her remain single (a-gamos, demarried) RECONCILIATION or else be reconciled to her husband -**DIVORCE** and that the husband should not divorce his wife. Married to Unbelievers 6. To the rest I say, not the Lord, that if any brother has a wife who is an unbeliever, IF CONGENIAL and she consents to live with him. STAY TOGETHER he should not divorce her. 7. If any woman has a husband who is an unbeliever, IF CONGENIAL and he consents to live with her, STAY TOGETHER she should not divorce him. 8. For the unbelieving husband is made holy through/in the wife, **UNBELIEVER** and the unbelieving wife MADE HOLY is made holy through/in her husband. 9. Otherwise, your children would be unclean, **CHILDREN** but as it is they are holy. HOLY 10. But if the unbelieving partner desires to separate, let it be, IF NOT CONGENIAL in such a case the brother or sister is not bound. **SEPARATE** For God has called us to peace. 11. For how do you know, wife, if you will keep (sozo, save?) your husband? **CAN YOU** For how do you know, husband, SAVE/KEEP PARTNER? if you will keep (sozo, save?) your wife?

[cf. Gal. 3:28 "In Christ there is no..."] male/female (discussed above in 7:1-16) Jew/Greek (discussed here in 7:17-19) slave/free (discussed here in 7:20-24)

To each as the Lord assigned,
 and to each as God has called - let him walk.
 This is my directive in all the churches.

FOLLOW YOUR
CALLING

- 2. Was any one at the time of his call circumcised? Let him not seek to remove the marks of circumcision.
- 3. Was any one at the time of his call uncircumcised? JEW (is nothing)
 Let him not seek circumcision. GREEK (is nothing)
- 4. For circumcision is nothing and uncircumcision is nothing, but keeping the commandments of God.
- 5. Every one in the calling REMAIN IN in/to which he was called should remain. YOUR CALLING
- 6. Were you called a slave?
 Do not be disturbed over it.
 But if you can gain your freedom, avail yourself of the opportunity.

 GAIN FREEDOM
- 7. For the person in the Lord called a slave is a freedman of the Lord. FREE Likewise he who was called free FREE is a slave of Christ. SLAVE
- 8. You were bought with a price; do not become slaves of men. STAY FREE
- 9. Every one, in that to which he was called, brethren, REMAIN IN in that let him remain with God.

 YOUR CALLING WITH GOD

PATTERNS OF CHRISTIAN SEXUALITY (III): CONCERNING THE UNMARRIED

I Cor. 7:25-31

1. Now concerning the *virgins* (parthenoi, never married), **VIRGINS** I have no command of the Lord, but I give my opinion as one who by the Lord's mercy is trustworthy. 2. I think that in view of the *impending distress* TROUBLE IS it is well for a person to remain as he is. **THREATENING** 3. Are you **bound** to a wife? Do not seek to be *free*. Are you free from a wife? **REMAIN AS** Do not seek *marriage*. YOU ARE But if you marry, you do not sin, and if a girl (virgin) marries she does not sin. 4. Yet those who marry will have worldly troubles, TROUBLE IS and I would spare you that. **THREATENING** 5. I mean, brethren, the *appointed time* TIME IS has grown very short; from now on, **SHORT** let those who have wives 6. live as though they had *none*, and those who mourn **FAMILY** as though they were not mourning, SOCIAL and those who **rejoice ECONOMIC TIES** as though they were not rejoicing, **DE-ABSOLUTIZED** and those who buy as though they had no goods, and those who deal with the world

as though they had no dealings with it.

7. For the **form of this world** is *passing away*.

FORM OF WORLD PASSING

PATTERNS OF CHRISTIAN SEXUALITY (IV) I Cor. 7:32-40

MARRAGE AND ANXIETIES

- I want you to be free from anxieties. FREE FROM ANXIETIES 1.
- Now the de-married (a-gamos) man 2. **DE-MARRIED MAN** is anxious about the affairs of the Lord, FREE FOR THE LORD how to please the Lord;
- 3. but the married man MARRIED MAN is anxious about worldly affairs, **BUSY WITH WIFE** how to please his wife, and he is divided.
- The de-married (a-gamos) woman and the virgin (parthenos) 4. are anxious about the affairs of the Lord, **DE-MARRIED WOMAN** how to be consecrated in body and spirit; FREE FOR THE LORD
- 5. but the married woman is anxious about worldly affairs, MARRIED WOMAN how to please her husband. **BUSY WITH HUSBAND**
- I say this for your own benefit, 6. not to throw a noose upon you, SECURING UNDIVIDED LOYALTY but to promote good order (euskhemon) and to secure your undivided devotion to the Lord.

ANY ONE AND HIS VIRGIN

- If any one thinks that he is not behaving properly towards his virgin, if his passions are strong, and if it has to be, let him do what he wants; he does not sin, let them marry.
- 8. But whoever is firmly established in his heart, being under no necessity but having his desire under control, and has determined this in his heart, to keep her as his virgin, he will do well.
- 9. So that he who marries (gives in marriage?) his virgin does well; and he who refrains from marrying (giving in marriage?) will do better.

IN CAST OF DEATH

- A wife is bound (dedetai) to her husband 10. as long as he lives.
- 11. If the husband dies, she is free to be married to whom she wishes, only in the Lord.
- 12. But in my judgment she is happier (makariotera) if she remains as she is.

PERSONAL APPEAL

I think that I have the Spirit of God.