

Are 1 Corinthians 7:12 and 7:25 Inspired?

During your lifetime, you will probably run into some who call themselves believers who do not wish to take Paul's instructions seriously in 1 Corinthians 7 (In that scripture, Paul speaks about marriage).

What's their opinion? These "believers" say that Paul is mixing God's text with Paul's personal views. Therefore, they say, Paul's writings not only on this topic, but other topics in other texts, cannot be believed as solely the Word of God. Paul, they feel, diluted the truth with his personal outlook. This is not what the Bible teaches, so you and I would disagree strongly.

The specific objections they use are in verses 12 and 25. There Paul indicates that ". . .I, not the Lord. . ." say certain things.

[But interestingly, in verse 10, Paul says, ". . . not I, but the Lord . . ." commands certain things.] It is important to understand that in verses 10, 12 and 25, Paul is indicating whether the words he is writing have been spoken or not spoken by Christ Himself.

Regarding verse 10, Jesus had personally taught about divorce (Matthew 5:31; Mark 10:11-12; Luke 16:18 and Matthew 19). By contrast however, Paul mentions in verse 12 that Jesus while on earth said nothing specifically about marriage between a Christian and non-Christian. Again, in verse 25, Paul reiterates that the Lord Jesus had not addressed this matter during His earthly ministry.

If this is simply a matter of whether or not Jesus had stated something while He taught, then why do people get upset about 1 Cor 7 being the inspired Word of God? It could be because this is a difficult passage to obey. If a believer can think that this message is not Divinely inspired, then this gives him the chance to "not believe" this passage, since it was "only Paul's opinion" they say. This thinking is incorrect.

We believe all Paul's wisdom because Paul is inspired—and we are using the Biblical term "inspired" here in all its true meaning. Paul is a trustworthy wise steward of the Lord who had received the mercy to be a true apostle (messenger) (verse 25). In this book, Paul says that he expects Christians to regard him as a faithful steward of the mysteries of Christ (1 Corinthians 4:1,2). He is not faithless writer of false teaching!

These comments by so-called believers provide no basis upon which to reject either the Divine inspiration from the Spirit or the authority with which the apostle Paul wrote.