

I Corinthians 7:17-24

Our Vocation

Introduction:

Here the apostle is concerned with the church's relationship with society. The church is not a secluded community, she is rather the body of Christ involved with all aspects of life. We are as Jesus said, "the light of the world." The world in a state of darkness needs the light of the truth of the gospel. Jesus also said we are "the salt of the earth." Salt holds society together. It preserves all that is vital. (Matt. 5:13-16) Each one of us who make up the body of Christ has been given unique gifts to fulfill our vocation.

I. God Assign Calling – v.17-19

A. Our present vocation –

1. All vocations are compatible with the Christian life
2. We serve God within our vocations

B. Our Call

1. Paul's favorite metaphor "walk" means "steady progress"
2. The priority of the divine call – John 15:16

C. Religious Scruples

1. Circumcision or uncircumcision does not matter
2. What matters is faith and a new creation – Gal. 5:6; 6:15

II. Remain in God's Calling – v.20-21

A. Remain in your calling – "remain" is an imperative mood

1. A large percentage of the population was at that time in slavery
2. The book of Philemon surrounds the circumstances of slavery

B. Freedom

1. Paul encourages the brighter side of providence.
2. Slave but free (paradoxical language)
3. Before we were Christians we were all slaves – Turn To: Romans 6:16-23
Rom. 1:1; I Cor. 4:1; II Cor. 11:23-28

C. Employees

1. Serve your boss with integrity – Turn To: Eph. 6:5-8

D. Who we belong to:

1. Purchased by Christ's blood
2. Remain in your occupation – v.24; cf. 17,20

E. Contentment

1. Is the opposite of complaining – Phil. 4:11; Heb. 13:5
2. Thomas Watson – speaks of contentment
3. Making a better life – "but if you are able also to become free, rather do that"
4. Christians should not remain passive – Political advice – Turn To: I Peter 2:13-15

Conclusion:

1. *Submit to governors as they punish evildoers but if they punish those who are law abiding, then they must be silenced and removed from office I Pet. 2:13*
2. *Act as free men, but do not abuse your freedom – I Pet. 2:16*
3. *Honor our good and righteous government officials – I Pet. 2:18*
4. *You may have to suffer for righteous principles as Jesus did – I Pet. 2:21*
5. *Focus upon the gospel – I Pet. 2:24*

