

Read 1 Corinthians 7:17-40.

I encourage you to prayerfully approach this passage using the notes and questions below. If you'd like to reference the sermon on this passage, go to BridgeCities.Church/watch

Living Out Your Assignment (1 Corinthians 7:17-24)

Read verses 17 and 20. Paul uses the word "assigned" or "apportioned" to describe our life situations and tells us to "remain in the condition in which we were called".

- How does changing your vocabulary from "this bad situation happened to me by accident" to "this situation was assigned to me" change the way you view your current daily struggles (like your job, health, or relationship status)?

Redefining Our Status (1 Corinthians 7:21-23)

In verses 21-23, Paul addresses people in the most extreme, unfair social and economic situation of the ancient world: slavery. He tells them their identity in Christ completely transcends their earthly status.

- How does knowing you are "bought with a price" by God change how much weight you give to your worldly success, your bank account, or your career ladder?

The 100,000-Year Perspective (1 Corinthians 7:29-31)

Look at verse 31, which reminds us that "the present form of this world is passing away". Zoom out and view your life through an eternal timeline.

- What is one area of your life right now where you are completely "bent out of shape," but it won't matter at all 10,000 years from now? How does an eternal perspective bring immediate peace to that worry?

The Hardest Question: Why the Pain?

Let's be completely honest: When we read that a loving God "assigns" or allows heavy things—like financial hardship, infertility, relational betrayal, or a scary medical diagnosis—our gut reaction is often, "Why would a loving God do that to me?"

- Where do you personally struggle most with this question? How does knowing God is a perfect, affectionate Father keep you from turning bitter when He hands you an assignment you didn't want?

Trusting the Unseen Picture

Think about biblical examples like Joseph (thrown in a pit, falsely accused, imprisoned) or Job (losing his health and his family). In the middle of their deep suffering, they couldn't see the big picture.

- Why do you think God often keeps us in the dark about why He is allowing a trial while it is happening? How do these historical examples give you hope to endure your own dark seasons?

Look at the Cross

In the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus was handed the most painful, agonizing assignment in human history. He openly asked His Father if there was any other way, before praying, "Not my will, but yours be done."

- What did Jesus focus on to find "contentment" in that horrific assignment? (Hebrews 12:2 says, "for the joy set before Him...") How does looking at Christ's ultimate submission on the cross reshape the way you handle your own difficult circumstances?

Bringing It Home

What is one specific, challenging circumstance in your life right now that you need to stop trying to frantically escape or change, and instead start asking: "How can I honor, obey, and glorify Jesus exactly where I am today?"

Looking for the Family Devotions? – Family Devotions will be paused for the remainder of the summer. We plan to revamp this resource this Fall.