

Message Two

**The Highest Spirituality**

Scripture Reading: 1 Cor. 6:17; 7:17-25, 40

- I. **First Corinthians 7 conveys the spirit of a person who loves the Lord, who cares for the Lord's interests on earth, who is absolutely for the Lord and one with the Lord, and who in every respect is obedient, submissive, and satisfied with God and the circumstances arranged by Him:**
  - A. Paul was absolutely one with God, and he wanted the Corinthian believers to be one with Him and not to initiate anything—vv. 17-24.
  - B. Because Paul was utterly one with the Lord, in his instructions and answers he spontaneously and unconsciously expressed an absolute spirit:
    1. Paul had an excellent spirit, a spirit that was submissive, content, and satisfied:
      - a. In his spirit he was very submissive and content with his situation.
      - b. To him, every situation was of the Lord, and he would not initiate anything to change it.
    2. Because Paul had such a spirit, he could answer the Corinthians in a way that would help them also to become one with God in their situation—v. 24.
- II. **Because Paul was one with the Lord, when he spoke, the Lord spoke with him; thus, in 1 Corinthians 7 we have an example of the New Testament principle of incarnation—vv. 10, 12, 25, 40:**
  - A. The principle of incarnation is that God enters into man and mingles Himself with man to make man one with Himself; thus, God is in man and man is in God—John 15:4-5:
    1. In the New Testament the Lord becomes one with His apostles, and they become one with Him and speak together with Him; thus, His word becomes their word, and whatever they utter is His word.
    2. The Old Testament principle of speaking for God was “Thus saith the Lord” (Isa. 10:24; Jer. 2:2); the New Testament principle of incarnation is “I [the speaker] charge,” for the speaker and the Lord are one.
  - B. Paul wrote 1 Corinthians 7 in the principle of incarnation:
    1. The principle in verse 10 is the same as that in Galatians 2:20: the principle of incarnation—two persons living as one person.
    2. Because Paul was one with the Lord, he knew the Lord's heart and mind.
    3. Paul was one with the Lord to such a degree that when he gave his own opinion, he thought that he also had the Spirit of God—v. 40.
    4. In verses 25 and 40 we see the highest spirituality—the spirituality of a person who is so one with the Lord and permeated with Him that even his opinion expresses the Lord's mind.
    5. If we are saturated with the Spirit, what we express will be our thought, but it will also be something of the Lord because we are one with Him—6:17.