

1 Corinthians 7:25

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Now concerning virgins I have no commandment of the Lord:
yet I give my judgment, as one that hath obtained mercy of
the Lord to be faithful.

Analysis

Now concerning virgins I have no commandment of the Lord—Paul returns to marriage/singleness, specifically addressing parthenōn (παρθένων, "virgins"), likely never-married young people. Unlike divorce (v. 10), Jesus gave no explicit teaching on whether virgins should marry. The phrase epitagēn kyriou ouk echō (ἐπιταγὴν κυρίου οὐκ ἔχω, "I have no command of the Lord") distinguishes this from dominical instruction.

However, **yet I give my judgment, as one that hath obtained mercy of the Lord to be faithful**. Paul's gnōmēn (γνώμη, "opinion/judgment") carries apostolic authority. The phrase hos ēleēmenos hypo kyriou pistos einai (ὡς ἡλεημένος ὑπὸ κυρίου πιστὸς εἶναι, "as one shown mercy by the Lord to be trustworthy") indicates Paul writes as a reliable apostle, though not quoting Jesus directly.

This verse exemplifies Paul's humility and integrity in distinguishing different levels of authority. His counsel on singleness (vv. 25-38) is inspired apostolic teaching but not direct quotation of Jesus. Paul's advice will reflect practical wisdom for "the present distress" (v. 26) while maintaining that both singleness and marriage are legitimate.

Historical Context

Paul's distinction between dominical commands and apostolic counsel shows the early church's careful preservation of Jesus' teaching while recognizing apostolic authority to apply gospel principles to new situations. Paul's humility models faithful leadership that neither overstates nor understates its authority.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How does Paul's distinction between Christ's commands and his own counsel model theological and pastoral integrity?
2. What does it mean that Paul's "judgment" still carries inspired authority even when not quoting Jesus?
3. How should Christians evaluate different levels of biblical authority while affirming Scripture's full inspiration?

Interlinear Text

Περὶ	δὲ	τῶν	παρθένων	ἐπιταγὴν	κυρίου	οὐκ	ἔχω
concerning	Now	G3588	virgins	commandment	of the Lord	no	I have
G4012	G1161		G3933	G2003	G2962	G3756	G2192
γνώμην	δὲ	δίδωμι	ὥς	ἡλεημένος	ὑπὸ		
my judgment	Now	I give	as	one that hath obtained mercy	of		
G1106	G1161	G1325	G5613	G1653	G5259		
κυρίου	πιστὸς	εἶναι					
of the Lord	faithful	to be					
G2962	G4103	G1511					

Additional Cross-References

1 Corinthians 7:6 (Word): But I speak this by permission, and not of commandment.

1 Corinthians 4:2 (Faith): Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.

1 Corinthians 7:40 (Judgment): But she is happier if she so abide, after my judgment: and I think also that I have the Spirit of God.

1 Corinthians 7:12 (Faith): But to the rest speak I, not the Lord: If any brother hath a wife that believeth not, and she be pleased to dwell with him, let him not put her away.