

- 1) 1 Corinthians 7:32-35
 - a) I would like you to be free from concern. An unmarried man is concerned about the Lord's affairs--how he can please the Lord. But a married man is concerned about the affairs of this world--how he can please his wife-- and his interests are divided. An unmarried woman or virgin is concerned about the Lord's affairs: Her aim is to be devoted to the Lord in both body and spirit. But a married woman is concerned about the affairs of this world--how she can please her husband. I am saying this for your own good, not to restrict you, but that you may live in a right way in undivided devotion to the Lord.
- 2) Matthew 19:10-12
 - a) The disciples said to him, "**If this is the situation between a husband and wife, it is better not to marry.**" Jesus replied, "Not everyone can accept this word, but only those to whom it has been given. For some are eunuchs because they were born that way; others were made that way by men; and others have renounced marriage because of the kingdom of heaven. The one who can accept this should accept it."
- 3) 1 Corinthians 7:38
 - a) "So then, he who marries the virgin does right, but **he who does not marry her does even better.**"
- 4) 1 Corinthians 7:7-8
 - a) "**I wish that all men were as I am.** But each man has his own gift from God; one has this gift, another has that. **Now to the unmarried and the widows I say: It is good for them to stay unmarried, as I am.**"
- 5) 1 Timothy 5:11-12
 - a) "As for younger widows, do not put them on such a list. For when **their sensual desires overcome their dedication to Christ, they want to marry. Thus they bring judgment on themselves, because they have broken their first pledge.**"
 - i) These verses talk about a pledge of celibacy taken by younger widows and its desirability. However, many young widows give in to sensual desires that overcome their dedication to Christ and this causes them to want marriage. When this occurs it brings judgment upon them because they broke their vows of celibacy. **These verses would also pertain to a priest who takes vows of celibacy.** These verses clearly show that God does not condemn *all* celibacy and in a life of vocation God prefers celibacy.
- 6) Priestly celibacy is based on three things: scripture, common sense, and an understanding of the fallen human nature of man. The only time that many head pastors of protestant churches is willing to meet with anyone is Monday-Friday from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. Many Protestant clergy view their week nights and weekends as time to devote only to their families and they often refuse to meet with anyone from the congregation during these times. This is a terrible way to limit your contact with your congregation. This type of ministry is more like a secular job than a ministry. What if you had a family crisis: divorce, sickness, death, tragedy, etc.? The Catholic Church wants its priests to be available anytime of the day 24x7 to council, minister, and help the flock. Obviously, with a family, a priest's attention and interests are divided. The common sense part includes how bad it would be to allow priests to marry and then the Church would have to deal with priests frequently getting

divorced. No one is forced into the priesthood. Those who wish to become priests are asked to renounce sex for the sake of the kingdom of God. Remember, Jesus praises those who would freely renounce sex for the kingdom of God. Also, one should remember that the vast majority of protestant denominations are not opposed to birth control. The Catholic Church condemns all forms of birth control. How could the Catholic Church teach this if married priests and their wives were to use birth control?