

Daily Morning Message
St Paul United Church of Christ
5312 Old Blue Rock Road, Cincinnati, Ohio 45247
Allen M Fluent, Pastor
Tuesday October 5, 2021

Lectionary Readings *Psalm 55:1-15*
 Job 11:1-20
 1 Corinthians 7:10-16

Today's Scripture Verse: *Wife, for all you know, you might save your husband. Husband, for all you know, you might save your wife. (1 Corinthians 7:16)*

What it means: I've known a few people who said their lives were saved by the people they married, but not necessarily for the reasons Paul gives in this lengthy instruction about marriage with unbelievers and the rejection of divorce. Here again, like yesterday's verse, we need to recognize that Paul is speaking to the culture of his time. In those days, divorce created a singular disadvantage for the woman, who was often left without means of support, and for that reason, Jesus also opposed it. In this passage, Paul is concerned primarily about the safety of the church as it proclaimed teachings deemed controversial in the Roman colonies where disagreements with the Imperial religion were punished severely. A religiously mixed marriage could be very dangerous in those days. As Christian believers today, we are not obliged to take Paul's literal advice about things that were even controversial among the early church leaders. Our commitment is to Jesus, not to Paul. But Paul is valuable to us, as his writings show how an early church leader began to sort out the ethical issues of his time.

Reflection: In every age, our challenge is to be faithful to your way, God. May our relationships always be based on your teachings of love.

