

A Biblical Worldview

Gender, Singleness, Marriage and Family

Week 5: Biblical Singleness

1 Corinthians 7:7-9 (NASB95) – Singleness is a Gift

⁷ Yet I wish that all men were even as I myself am. However, each man has his own gift from God, one in this manner, and another in that. ⁸ But I say to the unmarried and to widows that it is good for them if they remain even as I. ⁹ But if they do not have self-control, let them marry; for it is better to marry than to burn with passion.

Singleness is not a plague that we avoid at all cost. Singleness and marriage are both gifts. Different, but gifts none the less. How is singleness a gift? Freedom to serve Christ at any moment in any place. Generally speaking: singles can move in a moment; singles can study Scripture consistently; singles can serve in a moment's notice. But most importantly, singleness is a gift because God's Word says so.

Is there a specific calling upon singles to use their gift? Glad you asked. 1 Corinthians 7:32-35.

Discussion Questions:

- ❖ Are you seeking Christ with all your heart, mind and strength?
- ❖ Why should our relationship with God be of primary importance?

1 Corinthians 7:32-35 (NASB95) – Singleness Calls for Dedication

³² But I want you to be free from concern. One who is unmarried is concerned about the things of the Lord, how he may please the Lord; ³³ but one who is married is concerned about the things of the world, how he may please his wife, ³⁴ and his interests are divided. The woman who is unmarried, and the virgin, is concerned about the things of the Lord, that she may be holy both in body and spirit; but one who is married is concerned about the things of the world, how she may please her husband. ³⁵ This I say for your own benefit; not to put a restraint upon you, but to promote what is appropriate and to secure undistracted devotion to the Lord.

Singleness is an opportunity to be whole heartily dedicated to Christ and the church. This is why Paul uses phrases like "free from concern" and "secure undistracted devotion to the Lord".

Why is there so little talk within the church about singles having undistracted devotion to the Lord? While at the same time so much talk about building careers, homes, marriages, families. Priorities are important. Everyone should have the top priority of glorifying God with their lives. Well, that starts with loving God and keeping His Word. Jesus says in John 14:15 (NASB95): *"If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.*

As a single, part of loving God and keeping His Word is undistracted devotion to the Lord. Serving the Lord through the local church is absolutely necessary. It's not a suggestion, it's not a nice idea...it is commanded. Singles should be spending more time serving the church than serving their "ideal" lifestyle.

Discussion Questions:

- ❖ Why should a believer be dedicated to Christ and the church?
- ❖ What are the advantages of marriage and singleness?

1 Corinthians 6:18-20 (NASB95) – Singleness is a Commitment to Purity

¹⁸ Flee immorality. Every other sin that a man commits is outside the body, but the immoral man sins against his own body. ¹⁹ Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? ²⁰ For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body.

Our physical bodies should be protected from sexual immorality. Why? Because your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit. When was the last time you really considered the implications of the verse “your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit”?

We learn from this particular passage that being the temple of the Holy Spirit brings certain implications. (1) Your body is designed for worship, (2) your body belongs to God and (3) sexual sin directly impacts your ability to glorify God.

Discussion Questions:

- ❖ Why is it important to remember that our bodies are designed for worship?
- ❖ Who is in charge of your life? Do your actions match your answer?

Genesis 2:18 (NASB95) – Singleness can be Hard

¹⁸ Then the Lord God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone; I will make him a helper suitable for him.”

God naturally designed us to desire relationships. First and foremost, God designed us to be in relationship with Him. Which is why Jesus stated that the greatest commandment is to love the Lord.

But there is also a desire for human relationships; which is most satisfied within the church. When we are ushered into eternity, there will be two relationships: with God, with everyone else. There will be no traditional families like we have on earth, because we will all be family.

Within the church we develop a variety of relationships: mentorship, friendship, etc. But none the less, it can be hard to be labeled “single” in a culture that is consistently and constantly pushing marriage. And I’m speaking of the Christian culture. Marriage is celebrated as it should be, but at the expense of celebrating singleness. Our questions to young college age singles mostly revolve around career, marriage and family rather than a commitment to the cause of Christ.

Therefore, us as a church must do better a celebrating singleness and the opportunities, they have to serve the Lord that the married do not have. Also, singles you must learn to be satisfied in Christ rather than seeking your fulfillment in another person.

Discussion Questions:

- ❖ Why is it good to desire relationships with others?
- ❖ Why should building our relationship with God come first?
- ❖ How are you actively encouraging other believers in their faith?