

## God's Word for the Single Adult 1 Corinthians 7

### Introduction:

1. Paul begins this chapter with, "*Now concerning the things whereof ye wrote unto me ...*"
2. The Corinthian church had obviously written a letter to Paul asking his advice on a number of issues. The rest of this book, Paul is dealing with a lot of these questions.
3. The Corinthians had a number of questions about marriage, single life, divorce, sex within marriage, etc.
4. This chapter deals thoroughly with these issues for the church, the Body of Christ.
  - These are very sensitive issues and many godly men and women disagree on these things.
  - We must exercise grace with those that we disagree with, and refuse to be contentious.
  - You must develop your own convictions based on Scripture, but as you examine these issues you must rightly divide the Word.
  - If you try to make law, kingdom, and church age doctrine all match and fit in the same box, you are in for a very frustrating experience.
5. Paul has given us (the Body of Christ) clear instruction for this time of grace. Tonight we will focus on Paul's instructions regarding the single life.

### The Single Life

The apostle Paul had much to say about the single life because he himself was single. Much of this chapter is directed to single adults, and from Paul's words we can derive four basic principles about the single life and God's Word to the single adult.

1. **The single life is a good life. vs. 1, 8, 39-40**
    - In verse 1, Paul is not talking about shaking hands or rubbing up next to a woman. In context, he is referring to touching a woman in a sexual way.
- Proverbs 6:29**
- Paul says it is good for a man not to stir up these passions and kindle a fire of lust.
  - Verse 8 - Paul recommends the single life and says that it is a good life. It's not a good life for the reasons a lost person might give you, but, for a Christian, it **can** be a good life.
  - If you are single, you do not need to focus on how deprived you are to be single. You can have just as full a life that honors God as a married person.
  - You are not half a person. You are not lacking anything. You are complete in Christ. Your identity is not wrapped up in your marital status. You are a complete, whole person in Christ. Jesus was a single adult! Paul was a single adult!
  - "But I'm lonely, I want a companion." Sometimes the grass is not always greener. The only thing worse than wishing you were married is wishing you weren't.

- Loneliness gets to be a huge problem because people begin to focus on it and fill their mind with it. Then Satan tries to lure you into a pity party. If you take any problem and multiply it by self-pity, that is a recipe for depression. Then people make decisions (like marrying an ungodly person) that they regret later.  
vs. 39-40
2. **The single life is a life with less responsibility. vs. 33-34**
    - This is not referring to your work or your job. Obviously, single people excel at their jobs, many times more so than married people, and have more responsibility. But notice what Paul says in verses 33 and 34.
    - There are all kinds of responsibilities that come with marriage that a single person does **not** have to worry about. (**Illustration:** staying 2 hours after work to witness to a co-worker)
    - As a married person, you have a responsibility to your spouse and children. You are now one flesh with another person.
  3. **The single life is a life with more opportunity for the Lord. vs. 32, 35**
    - There are things that you may want to do for the Lord that simply cannot happen when you are married and have family commitments. (**Illustration:** missions trip)
    - On the other hand, the sky is the limit for single people. There is a level of anxiety that they are free from (verse 32) and they can completely focus on pleasing the Lord.
    - I like the phrase at the end of verse 35 - "*without distraction.*" Singles, you can give yourself wholly and unreservedly to the Lord. Do not think, "I will serve the Lord when I get married." **Now is the time.** You can have your biggest impact for the cause of Christ right now!
    - There is no way Paul could have accomplished what he did had he been married with a family (Example: **Acts 15:1-2** - "Let's go to Jerusalem about this." **Acts 15:36** - "Hey Barnabas, let's go visit all the churches we started.").
    - When you are married (and especially when you have children) - everything changes. Life is never the same again.
  4. **The single life is a life of choice. vs. 6-7, 25**
    - Having said all of that, Paul teaches that the single life is a good life, but it isn't for everybody, and you have liberty in Christ to make that choice for yourself.
    - In verse 6 Paul is saying, "I've got permission to say this, but I'm not laying down a law. I'm simply giving you some advice. I wish all of you could be unmarried and as fulfilled as I am (verses 7-8), but it isn't wrong if you marry (verse 9)."
    - If somebody comes into your life (who is saved) and you fall in love with them and you are burning in desire for them, Paul says, "It is **better** to marry." vs. 9
    - The single life is a matter of choice. "But, what if it is God's will for me to be single the rest of my life?" God has already revealed His will to you in His Word and He has told you that it is a **choice** that you are allowed to make as a full-grown adult in the family of God.
    - God is not going to be upset with you if you fall in love with a godly person and get married, and He's not going to be upset with you if you choose to remain single. As you walk in the Spirit, the Holy Spirit will fill you with **His** desires.

**In Conclusion:**

1. Remember - the fruit of the Spirit in **Galatians 5:22-23** has nothing to do with your marital status.
2. If you are single and your heart is troubled and you lack joy, do not think that getting married will solve these issues.
3. So many people enter marriage with unrealistic expectations. When a person lacks joy, peace, contentment, temperance, etc., these are spiritual issues, and they will resurface again after marriage.
4. God's desire is for you to be Spirit-filled, bearing the fruit of the Spirit in whatever condition you find yourself. Christ wants you to find your contentment in Him.  
**Philippians 4:11**
5. Life is not about **finding** the right person to marry; it is about **becoming** the person God wants you to be in Christ, manifesting His glory and His life.