

Sunday, February 3, 2013

## **Kingdom Singles**

*I Corinthians 7*

**Series:** *Kingdom Families*

Introduction:

The popular thinking in American culture is that unless a person is married they cannot be happy, joyful, fulfilled, or content. Truth is, you can be married and be miserable. However, if you are single and miserable, you do not have a good perspective on "single-hood". God doesn't want you to be a **coping** single, He desires you to be a **successful** single.

The Apostle Paul makes it very clear one's marital status has nothing to do with their spirituality. A married person for whom it is the Lord's will to be married is no more or less spiritual than a single person for whom it is the Lord's will to be single. Spirituality is based on obedience to God, not marital status.

A single person's first concern should always be focused on finding his or her purpose, not changing his or her status.

### **Five Biblical Considerations For Singles:**

**1. The Stress of the World's System** (*I Corinthians 7:26*)

**2. The Situation with our Flesh** (*I Corinthians 7:28*)

It is hard enough for a sinner to live with himself, let alone with another sinner. When two people are bound together in marriage the problems of human nature are multiplied. Close living allows us to see our partner's faults more clearly, and vice versa.

John MacArthur:

"It is not that marriage is not rewarding, nor that family life is uninterrupted trouble. A loving, devoted, spiritual family not only is a great joy and strength to its members but also strengthens and blesses those around it. Paul is simply pointing out that marriage may cause some problems while it solves others. It is not intended by God to resolve all personal, emotional, or spiritual difficulties. It definitely intensifies some of them."

### 3. The Short Time Span of the World (*I Corinthians 7:29-31*)

Godly marriages are "made in heaven", but they will not carry over into heaven. Marriage will disappear with this world, because it is designed only for this world, and not the next.

### 4. The Sensitivity of Marriage (*I Corinthians 7:32-35*)

John MacArthur:

"The married person's interests are divided between the earthly and the heavenly, and so they should be. 'Holy' is used here in its basic sense of separation, being set apart. Single Christians, whether formerly married or never married, are not intrinsically more righteous or faithful than married ones...but they are able, because of fewer family demands and obligations, to be more devoted to the Lord's work."

Marriage does not prevent great devotion to the Lord, and singleness does not guarantee it. But singleness has fewer hindrances and more advantages.

Barbara Hughes On The Advantages Of A Woman Being Single:

- A. She can change her plans at a moment's notice without conferring with another person.
- B. She and God decide on how to use her money.
- C. She is only concerned about the Lord's affairs instead of her husband's and children's.

### 5. The Seriousness of Marriage (*I Corinthians 7:39-40*)

God condemns the marriage between a Christian and a non-Christian.

2 Corinthians 6:14 (NKJV) *Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness?*

**Options While You Wait:**

1. You can **gripe**.
2. You can **grab**.
3. You can **grow**.