

Difficult Issues in 2 world-views

Change from 1 week to two

Singleness and Marriage

Society is hypocritical in its beliefs and acceptance of singleness and marriage.

- marriage is bad: subjugates women.
- marriage is good: if you are gay.
- singleness is bad: you need to get married. (also prevalent in the church)
- singleness is good: you can avoid the bad of marriage (subjugating women) and still get as much sex, from as many people as you can. (making both men and women, objects of your satisfaction, not building solid, stable relationships as scripture teaches).

Society glorifies the sins of selfishness and idolatry. Ultimately, whether discussing marriage or singleness in society, it's ultimately about me getting what I want.

Men's and women's roles in the body of Christ: Singleness (this week) and Marriage (next week) - not cover everything... just point you in the direction of a more biblical focus...

— **Marriage is God's directive from the very beginning. Genesis 1:27-28**

— **Jesus speaks of the importance of marriage in Matthew 19:4-6 and Mark 10:6-9 when he quotes from Genesis 1:27 and Genesis 2:24.**

— **parables include marriage in Matt 22, 24, Mark 12, Luke 17, 20**

— **John 21:25 "And there are also many other things which Jesus did, which if they were written in detail, I suppose that even the world itself would not contain the books that would be written."**

— **1 Corinthians 7, Ephesians 6, Colossians 3, Titus 2**

— **Hebrews 13**

— **1 Peter 3:7 "grace of life"**

"You husbands in the same way, live with *your wives* in an understanding way, as with ¹someone weaker, since she is a woman; and show her honor as a fellow heir of the grace of life, so that your prayers will not be hindered."

Proverbs 18:22

"He who finds a ^awife finds a good thing
And ^bobtains favor from the LORD."

Jeremiah 29:6

"Take ^awives and ¹become the fathers of sons and daughters, and take wives for your sons and give your daughters to husbands, that they may bear sons and daughters; and multiply there and do not decrease."

1 Timothy 4:1-3

"But ^athe Spirit explicitly says that ^bin later times some will ¹fall away from the faith, paying attention to ^cdeceitful spirits and ^ddoctrines of demons, by means of the hypocrisy of liars ^aseared in their own conscience as with a branding iron, *men* who ^aforbid marriage"

Hebrews 13:4

^aMarriage *is to be held* in honor among all, and the *marriage bed is to be undefiled*; ^bfor fornicators and adulterers God will judge.

— That's what you get to look forward to for next week.

Churches view of singleness?

Bible's view of singleness?

1 Corinthians 7

7: 1-16 - to married

7:17-24 - married and single

7:25-35 - single

Break this down:

7:1,7-8

"Now concerning the things about which you wrote, it is ^agood for a man not to touch a woman. Yet I wish that all men were even as I myself am. However, ^beach man has his own gift from God, one this way, and another that. But I say to the unmarried and to widows that it is good for them if they remain even as I."

3 Important facts...

1. v.1, 8 singleness is Good.
2. v.7 marriage and singleness are gifts from God. Only optional spiritual gift....

1 Corinthians 7:10, 12 - commands

not I, but the Lord - reiterating what Jesus had already taught...

I say, not the Lord - Jesus nor any previous prophet spoke this...

2 Timothy 3:16

^aAll Scripture is ¹inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for ²training in righteousness;

Hebrews 1:1-2

^aAll Scripture is ¹inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for ²training in righteousness;"

John 16:13

“But when He, ^athe Spirit of truth, comes, He will ^bguide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come.”

3. The strength of your faith is not measured by marriage or singleness. 7:12 - 24
v25: guidelines - virgin - unmarried, female article - female v.26 adds male

5 reasons to be single

1. v.26 In view of the present (immediate) distress - pressure of the world system, community, family, church (social pressure) distress greek - secondary meaning - violence: Paul as example. **John 15 - 16** Look at the US, the world around us..pressure, violence
2. v.28 Problems of the flesh. v28 trouble in this life...Trouble occurs in marriage.

From where? Flesh..sin...wife sinner, me sinner, 6 sinner kids, 2 sinner grandkids....

Trouble. greek thlipsis - press together or squash grapes...

Flesh..our humanness...Anger, selfishness, stupidity, forgetfulness, dishonesty, pride, thoughtlessness.

“If I get married it will solve my problems” No, it will magnify and compound your problems,

— not just one, now two problems, then three...six...eight...

The most miserable people in the world are not single, they are married, in a marriage that doesn't work. Marriage doesn't change anything, just makes everything worse...lust problems...loneliness....

3. v. 29-31 The passing of the world. When the Lord returns, you will not be married in heaven.

Colossians 3:1-2

“Therefore if you have been ^araised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, ^bseated at the right hand of God. Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth.”

- wives and husbands don't come until the end of chapter 3.

Is your marriage, emotions, stuff, pleasure from the world distracting you from the spiritual reality, from your spiritual responsibility? Romans 12:15 (rejoice with those who rejoice), Philippians (rejoice always)...Concentrate on the eternal. Don't need to get engulfed in the world...

4. v.32-35 Free from concern - dividedness - free from anxiety - carefree - potential for total devotion to Christ. undistracted Luke 14:20

Luke 10:40 — Martha vs. Mary

5. 39-40. We will come back to 36-38 — it's permanent! STUCK!
Prov 21:9
"It is better to live in a corner of a roof Than ¹in a house shared with a contentious woman."
Prov 21:19
"It is better to live in a desert land Than with a contentious and vexing woman."

Matthew 19:3-10 (disciples)

"Some Pharisees came to ¹Jesus, testing Him and asking, "^aIs it lawful *for a man* to ²divorce his wife for any reason at all? And He answered and said, "Have you not read ^athat He who created *them* from the beginning MADE THEM MALE AND FEMALE, and said, '^aFOR THIS REASON A MAN SHALL LEAVE HIS FATHER AND MOTHER AND BE JOINED TO HIS WIFE, AND ^bTHE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH'? "So they are no longer two, but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let no man separate." They *said to Him, "^aWhy then did Moses command to GIVE HER A CERTIFICATE OF DIVORCE AND SEND *her* AWAY?" He *said to them, "Because of your hardness of heart Moses permitted you to ¹divorce your wives; but from the beginning it has not been this way. "And I say to you, ^awhoever ¹divorces his wife, except for ²immorality, and marries another woman ³commits adultery⁴." The disciples *said to Him, "If the relationship of the man with his wife is like this, it is better not to marry."

Romans 7:2-3

"For ^athe married woman is bound by law to her ¹husband while he is living; but if her husband dies, she is released from the law ²concerning the husband. So then, if while her husband is living she is joined to another man, she shall be called an adulteress; but if her husband dies, she is free from the law, so that she is not an adulteress though she is joined to another man."

mine is positive: my best friend, companion, compassion that I am growing in.

6. Hey Dads...36-38. OT arranged marriages, Roman society, parents chose. Pharaoh chose Joseph's wife. 1 Samuel 18:20 - husband and wife did have some say.
v.36 - heard all this and say, I am going to push our little girl to serve God her whole life.

v.37 - God leads through father's decisions. If she has the gift, no special urges to be married.
v.38 - Giving is good, not giving is better. God says. Why, because it's God's gift.

What is this chapter saying?

- Marriage is good, it's for most of us. fulfill it, enjoy it sustain it for life.
- Singleness is good. It's a gift. If you have the gift, use the gift!
- As a christian, you will grow, mature and prosper, whether single or married.