

03 August

 Break the ice

Write down what God is saying to you in today's message:

TOPIC: 1 Corinthians – week 12

 Let's hear your story

1. Tell of a time when you had to explain to a friend or family member that God can use both an unmarried person and a married person?
2. What is one purpose for marriage according to v.2? **(To avoid sexual immorality. v.2; since sexual immorality is occurring...).**
3. What does v.7 tells us about singleness and marriage? **(Both are gifts from God. v.7; But each of you has your own gift from God...).**
4. Name one benefit of being single according to v.8? **(Amplified; it is good if they remain single and entirely devoted to the Lord as I am...).**

 Let's go deeper

5. What advice did Paul give parents whose children are planning to get married in v.25 – 31? **(Consider the present crisis / difficulties.).**
6. What advice did Paul give parents whose children are planning to get married in v.32 – 35? **(Consider the responsibilities of marriage.).**
7. What advice did Paul give parents whose children are planning to get married in v.36 – 38? **(Consider each unique situation.).**
8. What advice did Paul give parents whose children are planning to get married in v.39 – 40? **(Remember that marriage is for life.).**

 Let's apply this

9. 1 Corinthians 7:6 – 9; Now as a concession, not a command, I say this. I wish that all were as I myself am. But each has his own gift from God, one of one kind and one of another. To the unmarried and the widows I say that it is good for them to remain single, as I am. But if they cannot exercise self-control, they should marry.

- What is my gift from God?
- Am I marrying a believer?
- How will marriage affect my service for Christ?
- Am I prepared to enter into this marriage covenant for life?

SUMMARY:

Week 12 – Concerning the unmarried

Read: 1 Corinthians 7:1 – 9; 25–40

vv. 1 – 9; Singleness and marriage are gifts from God

The church asked Paul if singleness is more spiritual than marriage? Paul replied that it is good for a man or a woman to have the gift of singleness, but singleness is not better than marriage. One purpose for marriage is “to avoid sexual sins.” **v.2** makes it clear that God does not approve either of sex before marriage or polygamy to have more than one wife. **v.6** makes it clear that singleness is permitted, but it is not commanded; and **v.7** informs us that not everybody has the gift of remaining unmarried. This ties in with our Lord's teaching in Matthew 19:10 – 12, where “eunuchs” refers to those who abstain from marriage. In **vv.8 – 9**, Paul suggests to the unmarried that if you cannot control yourself, then marry.

The church asked Paul, “must a Christian get married? What about the unmarried women in the church who are not getting any younger?” Paul asked them to consider the following factors when they made their decision about marriage.

vv. 25 – 31; Consider the present circumstances

v.26; It was a time of distress (see Acts 11:27 – 28). **v.31;** when society was going through change. **v.29;** There was not much time left for serving the Lord. It is possible that there were political and economic pressures in Corinth. In view of the difficulties, it would be better for a person to be unmarried. However, this did not mean that married people should seek a divorce **v.27**. Paul's counsel was to the unmarried. This did not mean that nobody should get married; but those who do marry must be ready to accept the trials that will accompany it **v.28**. In fact, the situation might become so difficult that even those already married will have to live as though they were not married **v.29**. Perhaps Paul was referring to husbands and wives being separated from each other because of economic distress or persecution

vv. 32 – 35; Consider the responsibilities

The emphasis in this paragraph is on the word concerns or care, which means “to be anxious, to be pulled in different directions.” The married couple must consider each other, as well as the children God may give them. Unmarried believers must be careful to marry someone with a similar call of God.

vv.36 – 38; Consider each unique situation

Paul addressed here the fathers of the unmarried women. In that day, it was the parents who arranged the marriages, the father in particular (2 Cor. 11:2). It is wise for singles to involve their parents and church leaders in whom they should marry.

vv.39 – 40; Remember that marriage is for life

It is God's will that the marriage union be permanent, a lifetime commitment.