

## Leverage Your Life for the Kingdom

1 Corinthians 7:25-40

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"Imagine a church culture wherein members understand themselves to be family members, not merely church members." - Sean DeMars, Capitol Hill Baptist Church

Big idea: In the face of divisions, impurity, and distress in the church, Paul seeks to promote unity, purity, and full devotion to Christ so believers would leverage their lives for the Kingdom.

### **1) LIVE WITH AN URGENT FOCUS ON THE MISSION (VV. 25-31)**

The Mission: To leverage our lives to make disciples of all people for God's glory.

Consider your life:

1. If you listed your top 5 priorities, would the Great Commission be first?
2. Would those closest to you say the same about your priorities?
3. Is the Great Commission reflected in your budget and calendar?
4. How can you better leverage your life for the mission?

Regarding identity, validation, and purpose:

1. Are you looking to marriage for identity, validation, or purpose?
2. Are you distrusting God by being covetous or bitter toward others?
3. Are you believing God is sovereign, good, and is supplying all you need?
4. Are you living with an urgent focus on the mission & leveraging your life for the kingdom?

### **2) DEVOTE YOURSELF FULLY TO CHRIST (VV. 32-35, 39-40)**

Is Paul against marriage? No (see Eph. 5, Col. 3). But he does challenge us all to consider the legitimacy of the kingdom benefits of singleness and how God uses it for his glory.

Singleness provides the opportunity for undivided devotion to Christ, but it does not guarantee it. Many single men and women are divided in their devotion by trivial things.

If you don't leverage your singleness for the kingdom, you won't leverage marriage for the kingdom. Singleness is not a season to be endured, it is your current call and is to be leveraged completely for the kingdom.

Widowed brothers and sisters in Christ: Glorify God in singleness or in remarriage (v. 39)

Divorced brothers and sisters in Christ:

1. Have you repented of sin and received forgiveness in Christ?
2. Have you pursued reconciliation and forgiveness with your former spouse?
3. Are you leveraging your life for the Kingdom?

Marriage provides the opportunity to display devotion to Christ through devotion to one's spouse and, if applicable, children. It provides the opportunity to display Christ's relationship with the church, but does not guarantee it.

To all:

1. Are you making disciples?
2. Is anything distracting you from the mission?
3. Are you willing to go and do anything God calls you to?
4. Are you pursuing relationships with singles and other families in the church?

### **3) PURSUE PURITY THROUGH SINGLENESS OR MARRIAGE (VV. 36-38)**

Single brothers and sisters: Marriage does not solve your lack of self-control. You must put sexual sin to death now and develop self-control. (see Eph. 5:3)

To all: How are you actively pursuing purity in your life? What do you need to confess to your friends or spouse? How can you ensure you walk in the light so that you may best fulfill the mission you've been given for God's glory?

We are to leverage our lives for the Kingdom. We must live with an urgent focus on the mission God has given us, we must be fully devoted to Christ, and we must pursue purity in our stage of life. May God unite us, purify us, and spur us on as a family of God in his mission for his glory.