

## Happily Ever After

### Week #2 - Saved & Single: The Scarlet S (1 Corinthians 7)

*Summary: We live in a world that worships marriage. It seems unacceptable to not be married. Thus, match makers drive their single friends and family crazy with another date, another set up, another pitiful look —You're still single? But that's not biblical. Jesus, Paul, and countless other Christians have been totally saved yet totally single. This message explores the blessings of singleness and the role of singles in God's big family.*

- 1 Corinthians 7 - *Now for the (marriage) matters you wrote about...*
- 1 Corinthians 7:8 - *8 Now to the unmarried and the widows I say: It is good for them to stay unmarried, as I do.*
- 1 Corinthians 7:28 - *But if you do marry, you have not sinned; and if a virgin marries, she has not sinned. But those who marry will face many troubles in this life, and I want to spare you this.*
- 1 Corinthians 7:32-35 - *32 I would like you to be free from concern. An unmarried man is concerned about the Lord's affairs—how he can please the Lord. 33 But a married man is concerned about the affairs of this world—how he can please his wife— 34 and his interests are divided. An unmarried woman or virgin is concerned about the Lord's affairs: Her aim is to be devoted to the Lord in both body and spirit. But a married woman is concerned about the affairs of this world—how she can please her husband. 35 I am saying this for your own good, not to restrict you, but that you may live in a right way in undivided devotion to the Lord.*
- 1 Corinthians 7:38 - *So then, he who marries the virgin does right, but he who does not marry her does better.*

Being single is not only a **good** status but in certain circumstances **better**.

**Question: If that's the case, why aren't more people single?**

- 1 Corinthians 7:1-2 - *Now for the matters you wrote about: "It is good for a man not to have sexual relations with a woman." 2 But since sexual immorality is occurring, each man should have sexual relations with his own wife, and each woman with her own husband.*
- 1 Corinthians 7:9 - *9 But if they cannot control themselves, they should marry, for it is better to marry than to burn with passion.*
- Genesis 2:18 - *The Lord God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him."*

Being single for most is not the **best** status and for certain reasons more **difficult**.

Our identity is not based on **marital** status, but on our **redemption** status.

- Galatians 3:26-28 - *So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, 27 for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. 28 There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.*
- 1 Corinthians 7:17,24 - *17 Nevertheless, each person should live as a believer in whatever situation the Lord has assigned to them, just as God has called them...24 Brothers and sisters, each person, as responsible to God, should remain in the situation they were in when God called them.*
- Ephesians 4:4-6,16 - *There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; 5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism; 6 one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all...16 From him (Christ) the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.*

### **Points To Ponder**

1. Why is it so hard at times for someone who is single to believe that singleness could be God's best for them and not a lesser life? Follow-up:
  - a. If you are single, do you believe this personally? If so, why?
  - b. If you are married, do you at times give the impression that you believe this? If so, how?
  - c. How does knowing that our identity is not based on our marital status help us overcome this?
  - d. How can we as a church do a better job to encourage those who have a different relationship status than we do?
  - e. Think of 1 specific way you personally can do this with someone who does not share the same relationship status as you.
  
2. At St. Peter and The CORE, we have a diverse church membership...young and old, male and female, married and not-married. Now reread Galatians 3:26-28 & Ephesians 4:4-6,16. What is the spiritual blessing that is found in that diversity? What are the implications in that for us as a 922.0 church as it relates to:
  - a. Every Sunday an Opportunity
  - b. Every Group a Community
  - c. Every Member a Missionary

***Homework: Proverbs 31:10-31***