

- I) V32-33 INTRO: But I want you to be without care. He who is unmarried
We closed our last study with **four commands** Paul gave in V29-31

FIRST

- II) To the Married: Seek the kingdom first, and not your own self-satisfaction (V29)
Marriage is on earth, but not in heaven: It is a temporary arrangement
Mt 22:30 At the resurrection people will neither marry nor be given in marriage;
they will be like the angels in heaven.

THE POINT

- III) **Since it is not a permanent institution** do not put your marriage before God
You are married **in the Lord**, so you both should serve the Lord, first

SECOND

- IV) Paul wrote concerning **weeping** and **laughing** (V30)
Live balanced lives, not allowing joys or sorrows to separate you from God
Phil 4:5 Let your moderation be known to all men. The Lord is at hand!

THIRD

- V) V30 Those **who buy**: When you buy something, remember it is only temporary
Over concern about material things quenches the spiritual
Mt 6:31-33 Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we
drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your
heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God
and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

FOURTH

- VI) Those who use this world as not misusing it (V31)
This speaks of using it **to the full**, as if this is all there is
Lu 9:25 For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his
own soul?

- VII) Paul would make it clear that real life is found in Jesus
Jn 7:37-38 If any man thirst, let him come to me, and drink. He who believes on
me, as the scripture has said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.

FINALLY, HE SAID

- VIII) V31 The **form** (fashion) of this world is passing away (V29)
The present form of the world is already beginning to pass away
The way things are done and the things that are now in existence are changing

- IX) The things of the world that distract us are slowly fading away
None of these things are necessarily bad but can distract your walk

- I) Because of this, make sure you keep all things in their proper perspective
AT THIS POINT
- II) We begin to examine more closely **another reason** for remaining single
- III) V32-35 But I want you to be without care He who is unmarried cares for the
SINGLENESS LIMITS DISTRACTIONS
- IV) In marriage, there is a natural and proper concern for the things of this world
The husband wants please his wife, and the wife wants to please her husband
KEY
- V) Paul is not writing against marriage but in favor of expanding God's kingdom
- VI) Remember what he had already written
1:17 For Christ did not send me to baptize, **but to preach** the gospel
2:2 For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ **and Him crucified.**
6:19-20 Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? **You are not your own**; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body.
NOTICE
- VII) V32 I want you to be without care (Anxiety, worry, concern)
The unmarried person is free to minister without marital concerns
- VIII) V33 But he who is married cares about the things of the world how he may
I am concerned when Marie is out at night, or alone, in new surroundings
I am concerned that she is fed, has a home, has proper clothing, is respected
- IX) Marriage divides the attention between serving Jesus and caring for your mate
Obviously: Caring for our mates is important and is commanded by God
1 Ti 5:8 If anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for his immediate family, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.
We provide spiritually, morally, spiritually, and physically
ONE OF THE BYPRODUCTS
- X) Very often, in order to keep the home happy, ministry is stifled
Some husbands or wives do not like too much involvement in ministry
- XI) They can actively restrain you from growth and service
I have heard of husbands blocking the door to keep wives from going to church

- I) In order to keep the home happy, ministry is stifled or even **abandoned**
Some husbands or wives don't like **too much involvement**; they can be carnal
Sometimes they may even force you to choose between them and the Lord
Man selling radio time: his wife made him choose
- II) The difficulty lies with God's command to be completely devoted to Him, first
We are to love Him completely: With all of our hearts, soul, strength and mind
- III) The call to discipleship is a call to service and sacrifice
It is a call to **singleness of heart** and a daily pursuit of the Lord
Phil 3:13-14 Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.
- IV) This kind of demand of discipleship very often is quenched in marriages
Family demands quench ministry: Divided attention results in divided devotion
Dt 6:5 And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.
- V) Marriage and its demands often creates distractions and disrupts our service
- VI) V34 There is a difference between a wife and a virgin. The unmarried woman
He spoke of the difference between a married man and single man
He now says there is a difference between a **married** woman and one **unmarried**
- VII) Interestingly he says **the unmarried** cares about being holy in body and spirit
She is free to be entirely holy, meaning completely devoted to serving Jesus
In body and spirit would speak of her not being overly concerned with adornment
- VIII) A **married woman** can be concerned about her outer appearance
This could become a distraction if not properly balanced
1 Pe 3:3-4 Your beauty should not come from outward adornment, such as elaborate hairstyles and the wearing of gold jewelry or fine clothes. Rather, it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God's sight.
- IX) The **married woman** cares about how she can please her husband

She can put her husband above the Lord

- I) Her time and attention will be centered on caring for her husband's needs
If she has a family, she will need to care for their needs
It will cut in to her time that she might serve in the fellowship and care for others
If he is unsaved, she may encounter problems because of her faith
He may want her to party, or to go places she doesn't want to go to
He may make demands on her when it comes to her friendships with believers
- II) All of this can occur **because she is married**
- III) V35 And this I say for your own profit
I say this that you might be free to serve Jesus and to avoid the difficulties
- IV) V36-38 But if any man thinks he is behaving improperly toward *his virgin* if she is
WHAT IS PAUL REFERRING TO
- V) One commentator clarifies this for us
Some of the fathers in Corinth apparently had dedicated their young daughters to the Lord as permanent virgins. But when the daughters became of marriageable age, many of them no doubt wanted to be married, and their fathers were in a quandary. Should they break the vow they made for the girl? It is likely that many of the girls did not have the gift of singleness and were struggling with their desire to get married and their desire to please their fathers and the Lord. Again the emphasis is on the option believers have in regard to marriage. If the intended partner is a Christian, marriage is *always* permissible. A father who had vowed his daughter's remaining single in order to serve the Lord more devotedly was free to change his mind and allow her to marry if she were insistent. After all, it was a vow made for someone else, and was therefore subject to that person's spiritual needs.
- VI) V37-38 Nevertheless he who stands steadfast in his heart having no *necessity*
If the daughter does not desire marriage, then don't worry about it
Only her unwillingness to keep the vow to remain single should change his mind
If she is willing to remain unmarried and just serve the Lord, then that is good
- VII) V39-40 A wife is **bound by law** as long as her husband lives; but if her husband
Paul closes by answering a question about widows re-marrying
- VIII) He closes by emphasizing the permanence of marriage

It is a lifelong commitment that is honored as long as the mate is alive

I) This is something that Jewish law made clear

Ro 7:2 The woman who has a husband is bound **by the law** to her husband as long as he lives; but if the husband dies, she is released from the law of her husband.

II) This is something Jesus made clear when teaching concerning marriage
He made it clear marriage was a lifelong relationship, with many sacrifices

III) When He did so, His disciples made it clear that this was a difficult thing
Mt 19:10 Jesus' disciples then said to Him, If this is the case it is better not to marry

IV) V39 Is bound by law as long as her husband lives
When the partner is dead, then it is possible to remarry: Only in the Lord
2 Co 6:14-15 Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness? What harmony is there between Christ and Belial? What does a believer have in common with an unbeliever?

V) V40 But she is happier if **she remains as she is** according to my judgment
She is happier because she is enabled to serve the Lord freely, without cares
1 Ti. 5:5 The widow who is really in need and left all alone puts her hope in God and continues night and day to pray and to ask God for help.

VI) The call to discipleship is very simple: It demands following Jesus first
This kind of demand of discipleship very often is quenched in marriages

VII) Family life has many demands that divides our attention
Divided attention results in divided devotions