



## WEEK 4: SOLID AS A SINGLE

FEBRUARY 13, 2022

**BIG IDEA: A DISCIPLES' GOAL IN LIFE IS NEITHER TO BE MARRIED OR SINGLE, BUT TO LOVE AND SERVE GOD WITH EVERYTHING HE OR SHE THINKS, DESIRES, SAYS OR DOES (MARK 12:30). IF MARRIAGE HELPS YOU DO THAT, SEEK MARRIAGE. IF SINGLENESS HELPS YOU DO THAT, STAY SINGLE.**

*1 Corinthians 7:25-40 - Now concerning the betrothed, I have no command from the Lord, but I give my judgment as one who by the Lord's mercy is trustworthy. <sup>26</sup> I think that in view of the present distress it is good for a person to remain as he is. <sup>27</sup> Are you bound to a wife? Do not seek to be free. Are you free from a wife? Do not seek a wife. <sup>28</sup> But if you do marry, you have not sinned, and if a betrothed woman marries, she has not sinned. Yet those who marry will have worldly troubles, and I would spare you that. <sup>29</sup> This is what I mean, brothers: the appointed time has grown very short. From now on, let those who have wives live as though they had none, <sup>30</sup> and those who mourn as though they were not mourning, and those who rejoice as though they were not rejoicing, and those who buy as though they had no goods, <sup>31</sup> and those who deal with the world as though they had no dealings with it. For the present form of this world is passing away. <sup>32</sup> I want you to be free from anxieties. The unmarried man is anxious about the things of the Lord, how to please the Lord. <sup>33</sup> But the married man is anxious about worldly things, how to please his wife, <sup>34</sup> and his interests are divided. And the unmarried or betrothed woman is anxious about the things of the Lord, how to be holy in body and spirit. But the married woman is anxious about worldly things, how to please her husband. <sup>35</sup> I say this for your own benefit, not to lay any restraint upon you, but to promote good order and to secure your undivided devotion to the Lord. <sup>36</sup> If anyone thinks that he is not behaving properly toward his betrothed, if his passions are strong, and it has to be, let him do as he wishes: let them marry—it is no sin. <sup>37</sup> But whoever is firmly established in his heart, being under no necessity but having his desire under control, and has determined this in his heart, to keep her as his betrothed, he will do well. <sup>38</sup> So then he who marries his betrothed does well, and he who refrains from marriage will do even better. <sup>39</sup> A wife is bound to her husband as long as he lives. But if her husband dies, she is free to be married to whom she wishes, only in the Lord. <sup>40</sup> Yet in my judgment she is happier if she remains as she is. And I think that I too have the Spirit of God.*

**THE APOSTLE PAUL WAS TAKING ETERNAL UNIVERSAL PRINCIPLES AND PUTTING THEM IN THE CORINTHIAN'S IMMEDIATE CONTEXT AROUND 55 AD. WE ARE GOING TO FOLLOW SUIT AND PUT ETERNAL UNIVERSAL PRINCIPLES INTO OUR CONTEXT:**

### TAKEAWAYS FOR THE MARRIED IN MODERN WESTERN CULTURE:

1. You're not better or worse than a single person simply because you are married, marriage has both opportunities and challenges (*1 Corinthians 7:38*)
2. If you expect marriage to fix problems rather than expose problems, your expectations will crush you (*1 Corinthians 7:28*)
3. Your goal is to love and serve God, and help your spouse love and serve God (*Genesis 2:18, Ephesians 5:28-29, 33*)

### TAKEAWAYS FOR THE SINGLE IN MODERN WESTERN CULTURE:

1. You're not better or worse than a married person simply because you're single. Singleness has both opportunities and challenges (*Genesis 2:18, Proverbs 12:4, 31:10, 1 Corinthians 7:8-9*)
2. Navigating only two wills (God's + yours) rather than three wills (God's + yours + your spouse's) has unique advantages for making disciples, managing time, stewarding resources, and vocational advancement (*1 Corinthians 7:32-34*)
3. For singles who plan to remain single, the goal and benefit of singleness is undivided devotion and service to Christ and His mission, NOT partying, traveling, recreation, purchasing, and sexual immorality (*Ezekiel 23, Luke 12:15-21, 1 Corinthians 7:2, 35*)
4. For singles who wish to be married, looking for a spouse to complete you is idolatry that will crush the other person. You're looking for "the two", not "the one". (*Exodus 20:3, Philippians 4:11-12*)
5. For singles who wish to be married, become individually solid in Christ and seek to find a spouse who you can strengthen and who strengthens you. (*Genesis 2:18, Ephesians 5:28-29, 33*)

*2 Corinthians 6:14-17 - Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers. For what partnership has righteousness with lawlessness? Or what fellowship has light with darkness? <sup>15</sup> What accord has Christ with Belial? Or what portion does a believer share with an unbeliever? <sup>16</sup> What agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; as God said, "I will make my dwelling among them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people." <sup>17</sup> Therefore go out from their midst, and be separate from them, says the Lord, and touch no unclean thing; then I will welcome you*