

This section within 1 Corinthians is the Apostle Paul writing answers to the questions they had previously sent him by letter, which is lost to us. (*Now for the matters you wrote about...* v. 1-2)

Paul has a surprising take on marriage we rarely hear taught in churches in the western / developed world. Did it surprise you?

Paul on marriage: *It is good for a man **not** to marry...*

He addresses different groups of people at Corinth, and by extension the modern-day church as well. Do you see your situation in one among these groups?

- 1) Single (but wanting to marry) – Better NOT to marry, but...
v. 1-7
- 2) Single (but ambivalent) / widows – Remain as you are, but...
v. 8-9
- 3) Married (with believing spouse) – Remain as you are...
v. 10-11
- 4) Married (to an unbeliever) – Remain as you are, but...
v. 12-16

“Bloom where you are planted” means, whatever circumstances you find yourself in when you meet Christ, stay where you are and learn to thrive in your circumstances for God’s glory & others good!

Often the church has made those who are single feel less than. Incomplete, as if marriage fills in all our gaps or inadequacies. As far as Paul is concerned, being single is **preferable** to marriage in the context of the kingdom of God!

Why? Freedom from the concerns of this world, home life, etc.
Free to have undivided heart for the Lord! (vs. 28-35)