

We do not flourish when we live against God's design.

There is a way that appears to be right, but in the end it leads to death. Prov 14:12

Your spouse is your only legitimate source of romance. (1 Corinthians 7:2-5)

Now for the matters you wrote about: "It is good for a man not to have sexual relations with a woman." ²But... 1 Corinthians 7:1

See your season of singleness as a gift to be utilized to the max.

But I wish everyone were single, just as I am. Yet each person has a special gift from God, of one kind or another. 1 Corinthians 7:7 NLT

Don't wrap your life around the temporal things of this world.

...those who use the things of the world, as if not engrossed in them. For this world in its present form is passing away. 1 Corinthians 7:31

- **Idolatry happens when anything becomes more important than God and takes His place.**
- **Jesus is the only One who can give you...**
 - Security - unconditional love and acceptance
 - Significance - identity, value and purpose in life

Utilize your season of singleness to...

- **Pursue God with undistracted devotion.**

I say this for your own benefit, not to put a restraint on you, but to promote what is appropriate and to secure undistracted devotion to the Lord. 1 Cor 7:35 NASB

- **Become the kind of person *the person you want to marry* would want to marry.**
- **Cultivate healthy relationships.**

Let's Talk About It

Our biggest decisions (and some of our greatest regrets) have to do with our choices regarding relationships. The season of singleness is a gift from God that we can utilize to the max by wrapping our life around Jesus rather than the temporal things of this world. And instead of just looking for the "right person," spend your single years focused on pursuing God with undistracted devotion and becoming the right person.

Proverbs 14:12; John 10:10; 1 Corinthians 7:1-7, 28, 31, 32-35; 1 Thessalonians 4:3-8

Purple Book, Chapter 2 questions:

- What have you learned about lordship and obedience from Chapter 2?
- Read 1 John 2:3-6, 9 and Philippians 2:3-4. What does John say about people who claim to love God but don't obey Him? What kind of impact (+ or -) would living out either of these scripture passages have on an unbeliever?

Sermon questions:

- Which part of the message impacted or challenged you?
- Read 1 Corinthians 7:31, 35. What gives your life purpose and significance? How does Jesus meet those deepest needs in your life? How have you looked to other relationships to provide the security and significance that only Jesus can give?
- **[Single people]** Read 1 Corinthians 7:1-7, 28, 32-35. Do you see your singleness as a something to be endured or a gift to be utilized? Why? How would making the pursuit of God your highest priority help you discover who you really are?
- **[Married people]** Read 1 Corinthians 7:1-7, 28, 32-35. What adjustments can you make to ensure that your spouse is your only legitimate source of romance? As a married person, how do you keep the pursuit of God your highest priority?
- **[Single people]** Of the areas pastor Gregg mentioned, where do you want to work on "becoming" the kind of person you would want to marry? To honor God in your relationships, what adjustments do you need to make to cultivate healthy relationships?
- **[Married people]** How does having God as your first love and foundation of your marriage strengthen your relationship with your spouse? Where are you trusting God to work on you so you can continue "becoming" the person he's made you?

Take a Step

- Consider how you can practically put into practice the last question.

Here's My Prayer

- Father, thank You for being with us in all our relationships. Teach me and lead me to go about them in a way that honors you and the other person. As I approach my relationships prayerfully, give me clarity and courage to make wise decisions.