



To Marry Or Not To Marry?

1 Corinthians 7:7-9

February 7, 2024

Discussion Group Handout

7 Yet I wish that all men were even as I myself am. However, each man has his own gift from God, one this way, and another that. **8** But I say to the unmarried and to widows that it is good for them if they remain even as I. **9** But if they do not have self-control, let them marry, for it is better to marry than to burn *with passion*.

1. The Gift of Singleness.

- a. What does the gift of singleness actually mean?
- b. What is the purpose of spiritual gifts?
- c. If you are counseling a single person, practically what are some ways to work through if the person has this gift of singleness?
- d. What are the dangers of assuming or giving counsel or even pressuring someone to get married or who has the gift of singleness?

2. The Goodness Of The Gift Of Celibacy

- a. Do you think the church tends to consider singleness good or bad? Why?
- b. What are some ways we can encourage and minister to our brothers and sisters in Christ who are single or widowed and have a desire to remain that way due to having this gift?
- c. How can being single present unique opportunities to serve God?

3. The Gift Of Marriage

- a. Paul says that if you don't have self control then you should marry. Is this a suggestion?
- b. After talking about the goodness of celibacy Paul says that it's better to marry than to burn with passion. What are the dangers of not being married and burning with passion?
- c. What are some ways that we can encourage and help our brothers and sisters who want to get married that are single especially in this hyper sexual culture?



- d. What are some practical ways that you can cultivate contentment primarily if you are single, but if not single, how can you cultivate contentment in other areas of your life?