

Sermon Notes

The Calling of Singleness
1 Cor. 7:17-40

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Seeking to follow God where you are is more important than seeking to change your circumstances. (v.17 – 24)

The choice to pursue marriage or not is a matter of calling and desire. One does not sin by making either choice. Both are valuable to the kingdom of God. (v.25 – 28; v.33 - 40)

Earthly circumstances are temporary so do not let them control you. Be driven by your desire to follow Jesus. (v.29-31)

There are blessings and hardships associated with every life situation including singleness. (v.32 – 35)

5 Questions to Ask before Marriage – Weirsbe (adapted)

1. What are each of our gifts and callings from God?
2. Is the person a follower of Jesus?
3. Are my life circumstances such that marriage is a good idea?
4. How will marriage affect my service for Christ?
5. Am I prepared to enter into a life-long union?

Loving Those in Different Circumstances (Fileta)

Value
Invite
Engage

Questions for Reflection/Discussion:

As always feel free to tweak, skip, or add questions to focus on areas you think most relevant to your group.

1. What were you taught about marriage as you grew up? Was singleness presented as a God honoring option to you?
2. What are some ways that you can uniquely serve God because of the current circumstances of your life?
3. What's the difference between a calling and a desire? What role do each play in the life of a Christian?
4. Often times the Bible makes choices for us, does the freedom extended on the issue of marriage give you more comfort or more confusion?
5. How can you tell if earthly circumstances (relationships, stuff, hobbies) are driving your life more than Jesus?
6. What are some of the blessings and hardships of your current phase of life?
7. Do you agree with Paul that being married can make it more difficult to be fully devoted to God?
8. What are some ways that a church can make sure that those who are single feel valued and included?
9. Are there any other major questions you would encourage someone contemplating marriage to think about before they take that step?
10. How much interaction do you have with those in different life circumstances? What holds you back from engaging more?