

PAUL'S FIRST EPISTLE TO THE CORINTHIANS

LEARNING HOW TO BE A HEAVENLY CHURCH IN A GODLESS WORLD

1 CORINTHIANS 7:25-40

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THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

WISE RELATIONSHIPS FOR THE LAST DAYS

HOW TO BE A CHURCH THAT'S OUT OF THIS WORLD

SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:

Ministry, Servanthood, Marriage, Discipleship

The Apostle Paul has already discussed the place of sex in marriage and the right and wrong of divorce. Now, beginning with Verse 25 of Chapter 7, we come to a section addressed to the unmarried - that sets forth both the advantages and the disadvantages of single life. He set forth three advantages of being single in the Last Days; in verses 26-35 and then Verses 36-40 he give us the disadvantages of single life.

1 Corinthians 7:1

Now concerning the things of which you wrote to me:

The Christians of Greece and Their Cultural Clash

1 Corinthians 1:22

For Jews request a sign, and Greeks seek after wisdom;

The Bible Says... Psalm 111:10

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; A good understanding have all those who do His commandments.

WISE RELATIONSHIPS FOR THE LAST DAYS

:25 Now concerning virgins: I have no commandment from the Lord; yet I give **judgment** as one whom the Lord in His mercy has made trustworthy.

This is Apostolic Authority in Use

He means by that this matter of single life does not have a moral issue connected with it. He has already talked about the handling of sex drives and sexual immorality for either married or single. He gave certain commands of the Lord about them, and also about divorce, because there were moral problems connected with them. But here there is no moral issue, and the Lord has not spoken to this either publicly during His ministry or in private in the revelations He gave to the apostle. Therefore, Paul says he does not speak with a command of the Lord. But he suggests that he is given this as a subject to be settled by apostolic guidance. He is one who "has been found faithful"; he understands all the great issues that touch upon a question like this. So he wants us to understand that he speaks as one who by the Lord's mercy has been found faithful, and gives an apostolic word of counsel on this matter of single life. In Verses 26-28 we have the first advantage that he sees in single life:

WISE RELATIONSHIPS FOR THE LAST DAYS

LIVING RIGHT IN THE WRONG WORLD

1.) Being wise with what you have

v.26-35

:26 I suppose therefore that this is good because of ***the present distress*** - that *it is* good for a man to remain as he is: :27 Are you bound to a wife? Do not seek to be loosed. Are you loosed from a wife? Do not seek a wife. :28 But even if you do marry, you have not sinned; and if a virgin marries, she has not sinned. Nevertheless such will have trouble in the flesh, but I would spare you. :29 But this I say, brethren, ***the time is short***, so that from now on even those who have wives should be as though they had none, :30 those who weep as though they did not weep, those who rejoice as though they did not rejoice, those who buy as though they did not possess :31 and those who use this world as not misusing *it*. ***For the form of this world is passing away.*** :32 But I want you to be without care. ***He who is unmarried cares for the things of the Lord - how he may please the Lord.*** :33 But ***he who is married cares about the things of the world - how he may please his wife.*** :34 There is a difference between ***a wife*** and ***a virgin***. ***The unmarried woman cares about the things of the Lord, that she may be holy both in body and in spirit.*** But she who is married cares about the things of the world –how she may please her husband. :35 And this I say for your own ***profit***, not that I may put a ***leash*** on you, but for what is ***proper***, and that you may ***serve the Lord without distraction.***

1a.) Liberty - Prioritize your efforts with God

:26 I suppose therefore that this is good because of ***the present distress*** - that *it is* good for a man to remain as he is: :27 Are you bound to a wife? Do not seek to be loosed. Are you loosed from a wife? Do not seek a wife. :28 But even if you do marry, you have not sinned; and if a virgin marries, she has not sinned. ***Nevertheless such will have trouble in the flesh, but I would spare you.***

The present distress

The word here implies an unusual time of trouble or crisis. Written in 56 AD, this writing pre-dates the destruction of the temple in 70 AD.

Paul here is saying that there was some sort of situation or events taking place that made for an honest question; - ***“is this any time to get married?”***

Count the cost before marrying because marriage demands the ultimate of you and your time and effort
- be prayerful about it.

Ephesians 5:15-16

So be careful how you live, not as fools but as those who are wise. **:16** Make the most of every opportunity for doing good in these evil days.

in times of crisis, Paul says, single life has an advantage: you can be more flexible; you can adapt more quickly to certain, sudden catastrophic actions or events; you can pick up and move if necessary; there is less concern for handling all the affairs of others for whom you may be responsible.

Matthew 6:31-34

“Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ **:32** For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. **:33** But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. **:34** Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day *is* its own trouble.

This “Seeking” God First – puts a wisdom about us of Prioritizing our Time & Efforts

This is Wise Counsel from Paul

The Bible Says... 2 Timothy 3:1

know this, that in the last days perilous times will come:

These Times will Test us:

They will test our faith. They will test our resolve. Our doctrine will be tested. Our devotion and values will be tested – things are going to get very serious for us as Christians in this anti-Christ world we live in.

We are being confronted with spiritual attacks.

1 Timothy 4:1

Now the Holy Spirit expressly says that in latter times (Last Days) **some will depart from the faith**, giving heed to **deceiving spirits** and **doctrines of demons**,

How do you prevent this from happening to you?

#1 be in the word of God your **Bible**

#2 give yourself more and more to "an attitude" of **prayer**

#3 **hang out** with more and more godly Christians

#4 be watching and **waiting** for Jesus to return

#5 **keep yourself** usable to God

Matthew 24:42

Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming.

Titus 2:13

looking for The Blessed Hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ,

BEING WISE WITH WHAT YOU HAVE

1b.) Time - Dedicate your opportunities to God

29 But this I say, brethren, the **time is short**, so that from now on **even those who have wives should be as though they had none,**

"Use this short time you have for eternal purposes.

Be sure that the aim and center of your life is not just making a living, - but making a life."

Marriages are only for this life. They are not for eternity.

Matthew 22:30

For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels of God in heaven. – *I guess all angels are single*

The Bible Says... Ephesians 5:16 NIV

making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil.

Dedicate Your Opportunities to God!

1 John 2:15-17

Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. :16 For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world. :17 And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.

2 Corinthians 4:17-18

For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, :18 while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.

He makes clear, of course, that there is nothing wrong with getting married in a time of crisis, either. It may be unwise, he says, but it is not a sin, and if anybody marries he is not committing any terrible kind of misjudgment.

:30 those who weep as though they did not weep, those who rejoice as though they did not rejoice, those who buy as though they did not possess, :31 and those who use this world as not misusing it. *For the form of this world is passing away.* (the world is on its death bed)

BEING WISE WITH WHAT YOU HAVE

1c.) Passion - Devote your affections to God

:32 But I want you to be **without care (anxieties)**. *He who is unmarried cares for the things of the Lord - how he may please the Lord.* :33 But *he who is married cares about the things of the world - how he may please his wife.* :34 There is a difference between *a wife* and *a virgin*. *The unmarried woman cares about the things of the Lord, that she may be holy both in body and in spirit.* But she who is married cares about the things of the world – how she may please her husband. :35 And this I say for your own **profit**, not that I may put a **leash** on you, but for what is **proper**, and that you may **serve the Lord without distraction**.

Matthew 6:19-21

“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; :20 but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. :21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Distraction GRK ajperispaçstwß aperispastos, ap-er-is-pas-toce´;
to be pulled in multiple directions

Luke 10:38-41

Now it happened as they went that He entered a certain village; and a certain woman named Martha welcomed Him into her house. :39 And she had a sister called Mary, who also sat at Jesus' feet and heard His word. :40 But Martha was **distracted** with much serving, and she approached Him and said, "Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Therefore tell her to help me." :41 And Jesus answered and said to her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and **troubled** about many things.

distracted GRK perispaçw perispao, per-ee-spah´-o;
to drag, pull and tug a great load. To pull without success.

troubled GRK turbaçzw turbazo, toor-bad´-zo; from tu/rbh turbe
to make murky or muddy. To disturb or trouble the water so that you cannot see.

The Bible Says... Romans 12:1-2

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, *which is* your reasonable service. :2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

All of us have seen just how true these verses

are in real life. As a pastor – I see 2 Christians loving and serving Jesus and the church. Then, because of that – they fall in love and get married. - - They resign from the worship team or from children's ministry. **They stop serving and get engrossed in the things of married life.** So Jesus is no longer the center piece of the marriage and things begin to melt.

WISE RELATIONSHIPS FOR THE LAST DAYS

LIVING RIGHT IN THE WRONG WORLD

2.) Being wise in what you do

v.36-40

2a.) Bigger - Do what's bigger than you

36 But if any man thinks he is behaving **improperly** toward his virgin, if she is past the flower of her youth, and thus it must be, let him do what he wishes. He does not sin; let them marry. **:37 Nevertheless he who stands steadfast in his heart, having no necessity, but has power over his own will,** and has so determined in his heart that he will keep his virgin, does well **:38** So then he who gives *her* in marriage does well, but he who does not give *her* in marriage does better.

If you are engaged and still praying and thinking about marriage, if the engagement is too difficult to control yourselves – then get married.

Ask Yourself This Question - “Will us getting Married **advance** (make bigger) the Kingdom of God or not?” - *“increasing the faith”*

(37) **“Nevertheless he who stands steadfast in his heart,”** does not need the affirmation that sex and marriage supply us.

Controlling your sexual desires

But if you **can** control yourself and sex is no big deal, then don't get married - marriage isn't for you

Self-control - confident in his/her singleness
Can deal with being alone & can deal living without sex

Galatians 5:22-24

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, **:23** gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. **:24** And those *who are* Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

1 Thessalonians 4:3-7

It is God's will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality; **:4** that each of you should learn to control his own body in a way that is holy and honorable, **:5** not in passionate lust like the heathen, who do not know God; **:6** and that in this matter no one should wrong his brother or take advantage of him. The Lord will punish men for all such sins, as we have already told you and warned you. **:7** For God did not call us to be impure, but to live a holy life.

Never Look at or Consider a Single Christian as Less

Those Who are Unmarried are a Blessing to All of Us

Being Confident and Reckless for Christ

A warning here is in Order

You are to unite in all ways and in all areas as a Married Couple
In money / vacations / adventures / kids / family / home life

There are Christians who are married together – but do not have a Christian marriage.

BEING WISE WITH WHAT YOU DO

2b.) Better - Do what's better for you

:39 A wife is bound by law as long as her husband lives; but if her husband dies, she is at liberty to be married to whom she wishes, **only in the Lord**. :40 But she is happier if she remains as she is, according to my judgment - and I think I also have the Spirit of God.

Beware of Emotional Pressures Justifying Re-Marriage

Emotional stresses from becoming single by death.
(deciding to marry based upon loneliness and emotions)

It's a danger and a risk – it's not a sin, so be prayerful & careful

If you're single – that's a good thing, Sign up for our next missions trip. Go to Israel with us. Mentor young people – we can learn from you.

You can be free and involved, spending your time, money, and energy on the things of the Lord
- Busy about your heavenly Father's business.

End of Study

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