

# **Life without Marriage**

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## I. Introduction.

- A. Text: I Corinthians 7:1-38; Matthew 19:1-12.
- B. People need council with the challenges that single people face today.
- C. Paul is answering questions that had been written to him by the Corinthians concerning the single life.

## II. The Bible's teaching on marriage.

- A. Paul indicates that single life is just as much a gift as married life is. Some scholars believe that Paul had been married. (I Corinthians 7)
- B. Jesus suggests that anyone divorcing except for adultery commits adultery.
  - 1. Moses allowed for divorce because of a hardness of heart.
  - 2. Only in cases of sexual infidelity was divorce permitted.
- C. Marriage has become the rule and singleness has become the exception.
  - 1. This is good because it allows for the procreation of the race.
  - 2. God has designed it this way.

## II. Paul makes it clear that singleness is a special call of God.

- A. Jesus makes it clear what factors should determine this special call.
- B. The single life should be considered because of circumstances (so the eunuchs).
  - 1. These find a special place in God's program.
  - 2. Accidents do not rule a person out.
- C. There are those who choose to be single for the sake of the kingdom—this is a perfectly acceptable way of life. If one falls into this place, he should receive it.
- D. Paul's advice to the single.
  - 1. Do not seek to be free from marriage or to be married.
  - 2. Stop the frantic search for marriage.
  - 3. Reasons.

a. It promotes good order.

b. It secures undivided devotion to the Lord especially in the face of impending distress.

1) Troubled times makes opportunity more difficult.

2) If you want something to count in troubled times it may be best to remain single.

3) Everything should be held loosely in order to accomplish what God wants us to do.

4) Certain tasks require complete concentration.

5) Many have had a great impact by choosing the single life.

6) Single life need not be boring.

E. The matter of celibacy can be changed.

1. It is up to the individual.

2. There is no moral wrong in marrying.

**Application questions:**

1. Which reason for singleness stands out to you?

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2. Is getting married ever morally wrong? Explain.

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3. Why is it so important not to be caught up in the race to change one's circumstances? How have you seen your own attention divided in similar matters?

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