

I. The Goodness of Singleness

- a. Purpose: In this session we shall consider the goodness of singleness to balance our focus on marriage and also encourage who are single to see the goodness of God in your singleness.
- b. Introduction
 - i. Defined: Singleness is the state of an individual in which the person is not in a relationship with anyone that can be defined as marriage, dating or courtship.
 - ii. Situation: People today can think being single could not be a good thing.
 - iii. Need: The following will attempt to demonstrate that being single is not in of itself a bad thing.
 - iv. Being single can also be a good thing.
- c. Goodness of being single
 - i. Singleness allows an individual to have a single mind focus.
 1. Point: Life is so much simpler when it's just you.
 2. Proof: *"but one who is married is concerned about the things of the world, how he may please his wife, ³⁴and his interests are divided. The woman who is unmarried, and the virgin, is concerned about the things of the Lord, that she may be holy both in body and spirit; but one who is married is concerned about the things of the world, how she may please her husband."* (1st Corinthians 7:33-34)
 3. Explanation
 - a. One who is married and a Christian has to be concern with pleasing God, and on top of that **verse 33** says one married also is concern with pleasing the spouse as well.
 - b. In contrast to that, **verse 34** tells us the one who is unmarried and virgin only has a single mind focus to please Christ.
 4. Picture: Some people just can't juggle two things, and this ensure that God can allow them focus on God with a singularly focused condition.
 5. Practice: Your faith has to be more important than even a relationship; if God allows you to be single to allow you to focus on God by having your life so much more simpler, than praise God.
 - ii. Singleness is a gift of God
 1. Point: If you are single, being single is a gift which God gave to you.
 2. Proof: *"Yet I wish that all men were even as I myself am However, each man has his own gift from God, one in this manner, and another in that. But I say to the unmarried and to widows that it is ^(C)good for them if they remain ^(D)even as I."* (1st Corinthians 7:7-8)
 3. Explanation
 - a. Context is talking about believers.
 - b. Note the above that Paul in **verse 8** that it's good to remain unmarried.
 - c. Note that in **verse 7**, each individual has a gift from God concerning this matter of being single or married.
 - d. **Verse 7** implies that being single is also a gift from God!
 4. Practice
 - a. What do you understand a gift to be? Describe it.
 - b. What is the New Testament understanding of gift?
 - i. Not only for yourself, but to serve others.
 - ii. That's Paul's theme throughout the entire epistle to the Corinthians!

- c. Which means that being single for a Christian is not about living for yourself, but still for others.
 - d. In other words, for the Christian, being “single” is not an pass to live like a wreck and apart from being in a community. It’s not about living a life lonely and becoming weird. Use your singleness as a gift from God to bless others!
 - e. It also means that those in the church who are married or in a relationship don’t view a single Christian as weird or strange, but as a gift to the Church!
- iii. For the kingdom of God
1. Proof: *“The disciples said to Him, “If the relationship of the man with his wife is like this, it is better not to marry.” ¹¹But He said to them, “^(A)Not all men can accept this statement, but ^(K)only those to whom it has been given. ¹²“For there are eunuchs who were born that way from their mother’s womb; and there are eunuchs who were made eunuchs by men; and there are also eunuchs who made themselves eunuchs for the sake of the kingdom of heaven. He who is able to accept this, let him accept it.” (Matthew 19:10-12)*
 2. Explanation
 - a. Background to this section of Scripture is Jesus teaching about divorce.
 - b. His disciples reacted and realize that given the strictness of the Law, it is better not to marry” (v.10b)
 - c. Jesus then said in **verse 11** that not everyone can accept this statement, and acknowledge that there are some who for the sake of the kingdom of God (v.12)
 3. Picture:
 - a. There is a man who conducts music at Grace Community Church, and he has chosen to be single!
 4. Practice
 - a. Not everyone could accept this teaching, but it is true that for the good of the kingdom of God, that one chooses singleness. Because of the good that the one pursue for God’s kingdom, this singleness devoted to the Lord is good!
- iv. Being single for the Gospel’s sake
1. Proof:
 - a. *“Do we not have a right to take along a believing wife, even as the rest of the apostles and the ^(B)brothers of the Lord and ^(C)Cephas?” (1 Corinthians 9:5)*
 - b. *“But I say to the unmarried and to widows that it is ^(A)good for them if they remain ^(B)even as I.” (1 Corinthians 7:8)*
 - c. *“But I have ^(A)used none of these things And I am not writing these things so that it will be done so in my case; for it would be better for me to die than have any man make ^(B)my boast an empty one. ¹⁶For if I preach the gospel, I have nothing to boast of, for ^(C)I am under compulsion; for woe is me if I do not preach ^(D)the gospel.” (1 Corinthians 9:15-16)*
 2. Explanation
 - a. Paul had a right to marry, among other things (1 Corinthians 9:5)
 - b. Yet he choose not to be married (1 Corinthians 7:8), and even called it a good thing!

- c. He choose not to take advantage of his right of being married (1 **Corinthians 9:15**), because of the compulsion to preach the gospel (1 **Corinthians 9:16**)
- 3. Picture:
 - a. So many single women entering missions today, even more than single men!
- 4. Practice
 - a. This is singleness for a purpose.
 - b. If there are so many going to hell, and you can do something about it, and it cause you to be single, will you count that the gospel's all worth it?
- v. To spare any future spouse from your sin
 - 1. Proof: (Read 1 **Samuel 25:2-38**)
 - 2. Explanation
 - a. Foolish and evil in his dealing (v.3, 10-11)
 - b. NOTE: Even his name means foolish!
 - c. Ruin was heading towards Nabal (v.13), and it was explained why in v. 16
 - d. You want to be a Nabal in someone's else's lives
 - 3. Practice
 - a. Resort in your hearts to meditate on the truth that Christ was single, and singleness is not a bad thing.
 - b. Go to Jesus for your comfort, He is your high priest (**Hebrews 2:17**)
- vi. Jesus was also single
 - 1. Explanation
 - a. Jesus was perfect and without sin
 - b. Yet, he was single!
 - c. Therefore, singleness can not be a bad thing
 - d. We ourselves have met people and said, "Man I feel sorry for his or her spouse, that person is better off single!"
 - 2. Practice
 - a. Consider what areas the Lord might be working in your life
 - b. Be sanctified, grow in Christ and God's wisdom!
- vii. Being single in light of God's Sovereignty
 - 1. Proof: "*And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose*" (**Romans 8:28**)
 - 2. Explanation
 - a. God is in control of all circumstances
 - b. Since He is in control of all circumstances, He causes all things, including the season of singleness, to work together for the good of those who love God.
 - 3. Practice
 - a. That means accepting that God is allowing you to be single for one's good!
 - b. This should be the hope one holds on to, and have the peace that comes from God by trusting in Him and what He is doing.
 - c. It also calls us to grow more in God's grace.
 - d. Yet, God's sovereignty must also be balanced with human responsibility (1 **Corinthians 7:17**)