

**Providence Reformed Baptist Church - Sunday, August 7, 2022**

**Sermon Series: God's Plan and Purposes for Marriage**

**Message 14. To the Unmarried and Widows – 1 Cor. 7:1-40**

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Introduction: In 1 Corinthians chapter 7, Paul gives several reasons why believers should remain single, several reasons why they should get married, and gives instructions for the singles, married couples, and widows in the church. Let's begin by revealing a few misunderstandings about this passage.

**True or False**

- 1) It is good for a man not to touch a woman. – vs. 1-6
- 2) Singleness is a gift (charisma – bestowed by grace). – vs. 7
- 3) It is better to be married rather than staying single. – vs. 8-9

- I. Are You Good Where You Are? – vs. 25-28
  - A. Neither Singleness, not Marriage (in the Lord) is Sinful
  - B. Be Content Where You Are
    1. Change does not usher in contentment – see vs. 17, 24
    2. Remain as you are, if able – vs. 18-23
    3. Whatever you are, use it! – vs. 21
- II. Seek to Please the Lord – vs. 29-35
  - A. This World is Passing Away (vs. 29-31)
    1. Temporary
    2. Short lived
  - B. Cares and Priorities (vs. 32-35)
- III. Good...Better – vs. 36-38
  - A. His Virgin vs. His Virginitly? – see translation
    1. Behaving shamefully
    2. As a chaste man
    3. Let him marry
  - B. Doing Well, Doing Better (for reasons mentioned already)
- IV. Bound or Free? – vs. 39-40
  - A. Marriage Vows
    1. Binding while living
    2. Free upon death
    3. Remarry in the Lord – 2 Cor. 6:14; 2 Tim. 5:11
  - B. Widows – 2 Tim. 5:9-16
    1. Older, Godly Widows (vs. 9-10)
    2. Younger Widows (vs. 11-15)
      - a. If cared for, have too much free time!
      - b. Remarry and keep busy with the family
    3. Family vs. Family of God (vs. 16)

## **Cross References**

### **1 Corinthians 7:36-38** (PMW translation)

“If anyone thinks that he is behaving shamefully regarding his virginity, if he is old enough, let him do what he wants – it is not a sin: let him marry. But he who is convinced in his heart, not of necessity but according to what he wants, if he decides to keep his virginity, he does well. So then, he who marries does well, but he who does not marry does better.”

### **2 Corinthians 6:14**

14 Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness?

### **1 Timothy 5:9-16**

9 Do not let a widow under sixty years old be taken into the number, and not unless she has been the wife of one man, 10 well reported for good works: if she has brought up children, if she has lodged strangers, if she has washed the saints' feet, if she has relieved the afflicted, if she has diligently followed every good work. 11 But refuse the younger widows; for when they have begun to grow wanton against Christ, they desire to marry, 12 having condemnation because they have cast off their first faith. 13 And besides they learn to be idle, wandering about from house to house, and not only idle but also gossips and busybodies, saying things which they ought not. 14 Therefore I desire that the younger widows marry, bear children, manage the house, give no opportunity to the adversary to speak reproachfully. 15 For some have already turned aside after Satan. 16 If any believing man or woman has widows, let them relieve them, and do not let the church be burdened, that it may relieve those who are really widows.