



**The Joy of Singleness in Serving Christ with Undivided Devotion**  
**1 Corinthians 7:7-9, 32-35**  
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I. Introduction

- A. Current book titles aimed at singles help reveal what is on their minds.
- B. Out of 204,195 who live within five miles of High Pointe, how many are single?
  - 1. Single never married – 36% = 73,510    b). Divorced or widowed – 15% = 30,629
    - a). When added together, 51% of people within 5 miles are single = 104,139 – important?

II. Proposition

- A. The gift of celibacy frees men and women to serve Christ with undivided devotion.

III. Exposition

**A. Celibacy is a gift from God which is good (7:7-9).**

- 1. A Gift (7:7) – *charisma*: Spirit-endowed, for the sake of the body, may be temporary
- 2. A Calling (Matt. 19:10-12) – We can't force it on anyone!
- 3. Therefore, it is Good (7:8) – We need to be re-oriented because of Gen. 2:8 & current church thinking!
  - a. Marriage also a gift and good, but it is only temporary (Matt. 22:30).
  - b. Biblical manhood & womanhood are NOT dependent on marriage!
    - 1). Jesus was not married and is THE example of biblical manhood!
    - 2). Celibacy was good for Paul (7:7-8, 26, 28, 32-35, 37-38, 40).
  - c. What does this mean for the church in how we view singles?
- 4. How do you know you have the gift of celibacy?
  - a. If you can practice self-control & remain sexually pure (1 Cor. 7:9).
  - b. And the same way you would discern any other calling/vocation.

**B. The gift of celibacy frees men and women to serve Christ with undivided devotion (7:32-35).**

- 1. Though marriage is good and a gift, it can divide our devotion (7:33-34).
- 2. The gift of celibacy CAN free men and women from the cares of this world (7:32, 34, 35; cf. Luke 14:26).
  - a. BUT what could be the cares of this world for singles (Matt. 8:18-21)?
  - b. Examples of singles who have served Christ in such a way.

3. The freedom of celibacy to serve this way does not let marrieds off the hook (7:29-31)!

**C. Those who forsake marriage and family to serve Christ and advance His kingdom receive a new family (Mark 10:28-31).**

1. God's original intention: Godly offspring in His image who fill the earth with His glory.
  - a. Adam (Gen 1:26-28); Noah (Gen 9:1, 7); Abraham (Gen. 17:6); Jacob (Gen. 35:9-11).
2. Jesus is THE godly offspring (Gal. 3:16) and by faith in Him we are children of Abraham (Gal 3:7-9, 23-29).
3. We fulfill God's intention for godly offspring through the Great commission (Col 1:3-6).
  - a. This means singles can be fathers and mothers – spiritually speaking!
  - b. This means singles are not alone! You' are part of a family (mothers/fathers, bro/sis).
    - 1). This is the greater work to which all of us are called, married or single!

**IV. Conclusion**

- A. How should you (and the church) view your singleness?
  1. As a GOOD GIFT from God! (i.e., a calling, not a curse)!
  2. As a season or a life that frees you to serve Christ with undivided devotion.
    - a. So, if you are single now –where are you serving?
- B. What if you don't have the gift?
  1. Wait patiently upon Christ to return or provide you with a temporary spouse – more next week.
  2. What do you do while waiting?
    - a. SEEK FIRST CHRIST AND SERVE CHRIST (Matt. 6:31-34).
    - b. Delight in the fathers, mothers, brothers, sisters, children you have through Christ!

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