



Undivided Devotion
1 Corinthians 7:32-40
August 18, 2019

I say this for your own benefit, not to lay any restraint upon you, but to promote good order and to secure your undivided devotion to the Lord. - **1 Corinthians 7:35**

I. FREE FROM ANXIETY

- Paul appears to be very keen on making his point here, utilizing the Greek word translated “anxiety,” “distracted,” or “fragmented” six times in three verses (vss. 32-35).
- Our present world is passing away, the appointed time of Christ draws near, Paul advises us on marriage and singleness based on these realities (1 Cor. 7:25-31; 1 John 2:15-17).
- Normal life impacts our walk with the Lord, both positively and negatively. Divided attention is not, in and of itself, sinful (Deut. 24:5; 1 Tim. 5:4).

II. PRACTICAL SHEPHERDING

- Being single can lead to not only full and fruitful lives, but it can be immensely practical as well (vs. 35).
- Paul is clearly indicating that there are no hard and fast rules here. A person has freedom to choose in the areas under consideration (1 Cor. 8:8-9; 1 Cor. 7:39-40).
- We have been called to freedom in Christ. Christianity is not about a set of rules and regulations. However, that does not mean everything is good for us (Rom. 8:21; 1 Cor. 10:23; Gal. 5:13).
- Marriage has its benefits, and singleness its own. One state of life is not necessarily superior to the other. Much depends on one’s giftedness and call to life and ministry (vs. 38).

KNOW: The present form of this world is passing away. God lays few restraints on his people in the area of singleness and marriage, but we must recognize that there is much good that flows from singleness, if used properly for the glory of God.

DO: Commit yourself fully to Christ, regardless of your station in life.

Suggested Reading:

Redeeming Singleness: How the Storyline of the Bible Affirms the Single Life by Barry Danylak (LifePoint Library #248.84 DAN)

Questions/Discovery Points for Life Groups/Families

Please Read 1 Corinthians 7:32-40

1. What kind of stance does Paul seem to take on marriage and singleness in this passage?
2. What makes marriage susceptible to anxiety and distraction?
3. Does Paul seem to be advocating for singleness here? Does he have a problem with marriage?
4. How should we counsel a believer who does not have a desire or feel a need to be married?
5. How should we counsel a believer who is single but would very much like to be married?
6. What single “rule” does Paul lay out for a widow/widower who would like to remarry? (see vs. 39).
7. What are your takeaways from Sunday’s message?