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Section: Doctrine of Man (Anthropology)

**DISCUSSION GUIDE**

**Q32. Should everyone get married?**

No. God has blessed some with the gift of singleness and some with the gift of marriage. Both singleness and marriage are valued by God and accomplish His purposes.

1. In 1 Corinthians 7:7, Paul says, “I wish that all were [single/not married] as I myself am.” Since Paul is an inspired writer of Scripture, how much weight should we give to his statement here?

* Is singleness commanded/required of those who are eligible (based on God’s terms) to be married? What verse clarifies that?
* Before this lesson, were you aware of the Bible’s strong New Covenant praise of singleness?

1. Paul says in 1 Corinthians 7:8, “… it is good for [singles] to remain single …” It is GOOD. Is that how you’ve thought about singleness?

* What influences have you experienced that communicated to you that singleness is not good or is subpar?
* How has the truth from God’s word taught tonight helped you have a more godly, biblical view of singleness?

1. In 1 Corinthians 7:28 we read, “… those who marry will have worldly troubles, and I would spare you that.” Do you see the wisdom God is giving here through Paul? Do you understand how loving this warning and encouragement is? Share how this verse is shaping how you see singleness.
2. For those who are married, how does the clarity on being complete only in Christ help you not idolize your spouse or make them be your functional savior? Do you realize how you do this at times, or do you need to ask for increased accountability here?
3. For those who are single, has not having the spouse you desire tempted you to resent God’s sovereign plan for your life, curse Him due to your expectations, and even resent Him? Can your table peers or leader help you walk out repentance if so?
4. In our lesson, Pastor Matt shared ways not to “waste your singleness.” Share things that stood out to you/encouraged you.
5. Read Psalm 23:1 together. How does this passage speak to our topic tonight, such as being single, even if your desire has been to get married?
6. The most important thing we can know about why we exist is that God made us to glorify Him. And we do that by trusting in Jesus, enjoying Him, treasuring Him above all else, growing in our knowledge of Him, obeying His commands, and by showing and telling the world how great He is.

* Why is this the most important thing we can know about why we exist?
* How does this help us live, not for our own desires, but for God?

1. Single people in Christ are full-fledged family members on par with all others, bearing fruit for God and becoming mothers and fathers of the eternal kind. How can singles help raise the children in this church in the discipline and instruction of the Lord?
2. In what ways can a single person honor the Creation Ordinance of marriage?
3. Read the catechism question and answer #32 together. Does everyone understand why the answer was written how it was? Share how you understand the answer more now than you did before tonight.

* Spend some time in prayer.