Section: Doctrine of Man

**TEACHING NOTES for Lesson 27 (April 12, 2023)**

**“God’s Call to Singleness” Question 32**

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**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.

Before we jump into the core of God’s word on this matter I feel it is important that we lay down some fundamental biblical principles that are necessary to have in good and right view before we try to tackle this topic.

The first is…

**We are complete and satisfied in Christ alone**

The world agenda is to convince us that we need other things to feel whole, complete, worth something and or satisfied.

**The World says for you to be complete you need…**

* something done to you:
* circumstances right around you
* something to be said about you
* to have a position or title bestowed upon you
* more things owned by you
* to wear the right things on you
* do more of the right things by you

**Earn it, buy it, be it, believe it, get it, take it, make it.. and on and on.**

The trap is this is an endless abyss because none of it will make us complete.

We have seen this play out in Popular movies, whereby people are emotionally saying **“you complete me”** to the person they are falling in love with. While this might seem super romantic it is a spiritual trap that all to many people find themselves in.

**We don’t need a spouse to be complete.** All we need is Christ!! Christ is more than enough!

Union to the Lord, through faith in Christ, is what gives us our identity, purpose, and fulfillment.

To be COMPLETE IN CHRIST means not lacking any good thing.

David wrote in, **Psalm 34:9-10,** "Oh, fear the Lord, you his saints, for those who fear him **have no lack**! 10 The young lions suffer want and hunger; but those who seek the Lord **lack no good thing** "

**Psalm 23:1** The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not lack any good thing.

This is exactly what Christ himself said he would be to us in…

**John 10:10** I came that they may have life and have it abundantly. (To give us life to the full)

We could say, ***“The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not lack anything that the Shepherd determines I need to be satisfied in Him.”***

Paul also spoke to this fundamental reality that we poses in Christ!!

**Philippians 4:11** Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content.

Christian, it is so important that we fundamentally understand and embrace our fullness in Christ before trying to navigate any cross roads of life. The reason why is because if we are not properly satisfied and as Paul says it “content” in Christ then we will look to fill that space with other things that will essentially become idols to us!!!

**Q34. What is the sin of idolatry?** Idolatry is worshiping or finding hope, identity, significance, purpose, or security in anything other than in God, our creator.

Being satisfied in Christ as your joy and treasure is the only true way to contentment. Being satisfied in Christ as your joy and treasure is what God has provided us. To reject that Christ is enough and say I must have something more is to diminish the fullness and the goodness that Christ is to us!!

Paul, who is writing this letter from prison. Who has lost his family, his friends, his freedom, he is being beaten and starved while he serves an unjust jail sentence is saying truly that he has not unfulfilled needs. He has learned to be content despite what he has or doesn’t have! HOW?

Because he has Christ. Listen to how he says this in the prior chapter..

**Philippians 3:8**  Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ

Oh how we must start with Jesus. He must be our first love and our greatest love.

IN all my years of counseling singles and couples I have come to a place that the first matter for any single even contemplating a relationships with another Christian is to be sure that both of them are completely satisfied in Christ. For if they are not then the parts that are looking for you to fulfill will be the things that create the most heartache and struggle in that relationship. **WHY?** because we cannot fulfill what only Christ can!!!

Even in the very wedding ceremonies I perform, I say to a doting bride “he will never be to you what only Christ can be to you”. I say it because she must be reminded that even in this most romantic setting Christ must be her first, her everything!!! Or she will be greatly let down!!

The second foundational thing we must understand is that God providentially gives us all different purposes in our lives to steward for his glory!!

**Stewardship of God’s Purposes for our Lives**

We really need to see the status of our relationships or even having kids through the lens of stewarding well what God entrust to us.

The spiritual discipline of stewardship is our privileged opportunity to be faithful managers of God’s provisions and ***God’s purposes*** for God’s glory and the good of His creation!

God is the one who rules over his creation as He wills for his purposes and glory.

This means that God purposes each of us with different lots in life, different realities that we face or have to go through that we are to steward well.

**In Daniel 4:35 we read..**  all the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing, and he does according to his will among the host of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth; and none can stay his hand or say to him, “What have you done?”

**The point is…** God will work his creation as his perfectly wills for his eternal perfect purposes.

We have to be sure to trust in the economy of God, who is on the throne over all things and that he knows best how to steward our lives for maximum glory for himself and good for us.

The biblical truth is that God will use many moments or a sometimes a lifetime of struggle for his perfect purposes.

**For some he purposes them to be rich and for some to be poor.**

**Proverbs 22:2** The rich and the poor meet together; the LORD is the Maker of them all.

God purposes some of you to testify the Gospel and the joy of the Lord in your wealth and others in your poverty. This is His purpose for you.

**For some he purposes for marriage and for some singleness.**

Speaking of marriage and singleness Paul says in..

**1 Corinthians 7:7** But each has his own gift from God, one of one kind and one of another.

God purposes some of you to testify the Gospel and the joy of the Lord in your marriage and others in your singleness. This is His purpose for you.

**For some he purpose to be healthy and strong and for some he purposes to be stricken with impairment and or physical suffering.**

**John 9:1-3** As he passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. And his disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” Jesus answered, “It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him.

God purposes some of you to testify the Gospel and the joy of the Lord in your physical strength and in others in your physical struggle and even sickness or impermeant. This is His purpose for you.

**For some he purposes them to have children and for others not.**

Scripture says that Children are a gift of God-

**Psalm 127:3** Behold, children are a gift of the LORD.. (NASB)

Scripture also show us that God purposes some to not have children-

**1 Samuel 1:5** But to Hannah he gave a double portion, because he loved her, though the LORD had closed her womb.

**Church: we must have a good and right view of the fact that our lives belong to God and it is his good will for us that we must embrace and trust and walk out in faith.**

Not all of us will be called to the same circumstances and provisions and purposes but what we must all do is steward them well!!! For this glory!!!

**Ok, with those fundamental principles under our feet let us dig into the matter at hand and that is God’s provision and purpose for some to be married and some to be single!!**

**Turn with me to 1 Corinthians 7 where we will spend most of our time tonight.**

Paul is the author of this letter to the church in Corinth and by God’s sovereign decree he has these direct words for us regarding the topic of singleness and marriage.

Look with me first at v7

**1 Corinthians 7:7** I wish that all were as I myself am. *But each has his own gift from God, one of one kind and one of another*.

***Singleness is a gift, and marriage is a gift.***

Paul who is single is saying that he wishes that his brethren would be single as, he is single.

We will get into why he thinks this is good and helpful for many in a bit but notice with me his important qualifier in the second part of the verse. “*But each has his own gift from God, one of one kind and one of another*.”

Paul’s point here is super important and it not to be looked at lightly.

He is saying that God calls some to marriage who are to therefore steward marriage well for its God given purposes. To them this is a gift of God. It is God’s good and right call on their life to steward this reality and all that comes with it for His holy purposes!!

Paul is also saying that God calls some to singleness and these are to steward well singleness for God’s good purpose for it. To them this is a gift of God!! It is his good and right call on their lives to steward for his holy purposes!!!

Church: We rightly see that all that we have belongs to the Lord then we will put down our fleshly dreams and plans and priorities to humbly, joyfully, serve the Lord. We must have this in view.

IF we do not then we fundamentally begin to take up the mantel of being Lord of our own lives and this is not a good place to be.

So, Paul is recognizing.. that God is at work providentially in each of our lives and to each of us he has his own lot, gift, calling. The key here is to recognize that it is a good gift of God as to what He ordains for each of our lives. For us to reject this is to throw back in his face what he has called you to. It is to not walk by faith but to demand your way is better.

Proper yielding to the Lord will help us to be grateful for whatever he calls us to.

We will see that scripture holds up both marriage and singleness as good and something to be thankful for and to steward well so we MUST be so careful to not hold one higher than another!!!

It is helpful to recognize that our society has differing radical positions on the matter.
Some speak so ill of marriage and want nothing to do with it.

Others make marriage out to be the one worthy way to pursue adulthood almost making it sound like those who are not married are of lessor value!!

Church, we must not receive our convictions and priorities form the world or even our family for that matter. Parents, and grandparents, please do not place an unneeded burden on your kids or grandkids to marry or have kids to fulfill your agenda for their lives. Instead, let’s encourage them to be faithful to the Lord in all that they do!!!

**Singleness is a good and right stewardship of many lives**

This is Paul’s encouragement in verse 8. “To the unmarried and the widows I say that it is good for them to remain single, as I am.” **1 Corinthians 7:8**

Notice he says, **“Singleness is a GOOD thing”**

**Is that how you think about singleness?**

The God of creation, through inspiring Paul, declares, singleness is GOOD.

It is important that we let God’s word shape our thinking. That we don’t rest most on our personal opinion then we do on the authority of God’s good word!!

In this, you can see why our catechism question exists and why the answer is what it is. Look at it again, I’ll read it:

**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.

We’ve seen clearly in past lessons of this series, that human marriage is a gift from God, and as we see here in 1 Cor 7, that singleness is too.

To help us see this, think with me for a moment about the two most prominent people in the New Testament: Jesus and Paul. Both of these faithful men were single. Think of the implications of that.

Especially, in regard to Christ. The only perfect person to ever live was single.

Christ is the only person to ever have a truly fulfilled life. Complete in every way.

Christian, our relationship status does not define our value or completeness.

We must see it as a means of God to do what God wants us to do with our lives for His glory and purposes!!

**Why is Singleness a good plan for some?**

God’s word reveals through Paul’s writing that it is good that some do not marry but remain single to fulfill God’s good plan for their life and gospel ministry! Listen to this verse in a larger view.

**1 Corinthians 7:6-9** Now as a concession, not a command, I say this. 7 I wish that all were as I myself am. But each has his own gift from God, one of one kind and one of another.

8 To the unmarried and the widows I say that it is good for them to remain single, as I am. 9 But if they cannot exercise self-control, they should marry. For it is better to marry than to burn with passion.

Before we consider the different layers for why many should embrace God’s call on their life to be single notice with me that this is..

***Not a Command!!***

See that he clarifies in verse 6, this is “not a command.”

let’s be clear that even with the strong hopes of Paul shared that many remain single, **singleness is not required of those who are eligible (based on God’s terms) to be married**.

*But*, as we see in verse 7, Paul makes it very clear (based on his life and ministry wisdom and more importantly, God inspiring these words) he knows the value of singleness and he recommends it. “I wish that all were single (not married), as I myself am.”

We will come back to this passage but let’s look for a few minutes at Christ’s words on singleness and see how it lines up with what we are seeing, what Paul writes in 1 Cor 7.

When the disciples heard Jesus’ teaching that marriage is a one flesh union that is only ended by death, they spoke up in an effort to verify what they heard and digest it.

**Matthew 19:10** The disciples said to him, “If such is the case of a man with his wife, it is better not to marry.”

They are saying, “WHOA, if a marriage is to last until death—if a person is not permitted by God to seek outs to the one-flesh union via divorce—than it’s better to not even marry!” They know how difficult marriage can be, like we’ll see Paul say more about later in our study.

Jesus responds:

**Matthew 19:11-12** But Jesus said to them, “Not everyone can receive this saying, but only those to whom it is given. **12**For there are eunuchs who have been so from birth, and there are eunuchs who have been made eunuchs by men, and there are eunuchs who have made themselves eunuchs for the sake of the kingdom of heaven. Let the one who is able to receive this receive it.”

*Eunuchs*, simply stated, are those who are unable to procreate children and or those who live their lives in a single or unmarried state.

Jesus highlights these individuals embracing their God given lot in life which for many includes the gift of singleness! They see it as a good assignment for their life for the sake of the Kingdom!

See with me that this lines up with what Paul writes in 1 Cor 7.

Singleness is a gift (it is God’s sovereign plan for many) and it is worthy to be embraced!

Let’s look further at 1 Cor 7 to build out our theology of *singleness* being a good gift.

In these next verses Paul is speaking to those who are betrothed. Betrothal is like engagement, but much more committed.

Paul is going to go into more depth as to why he recommends many to remain single and not to marry!

**1 Corinthians 7:25-35** Now concerning the betrothed, I have no command from the Lord, but I give my judgment as one who by the Lord's mercy is trustworthy. 26I think that in view of the present distress it is good for a person to remain as he is. 27Are you bound to a wife? Do not seek to be free. Are you free from a wife? Do not seek a wife. 28But if you do marry, you have not sinned, and if a betrothed woman marries, she has not sinned.

Yet those who marry will have worldly troubles, and I would spare you that. 29This is what I mean, brothers: the appointed time has grown very short. From now on, let those who have wives live as though they had none, 30and those who mourn as though they were not mourning, and those who rejoice as though they were not rejoicing, and those who buy as though they had no goods, 31and those who deal with the world as though they had no dealings with it. For the present form of this world is passing away.

32I want you to be free from anxieties. The unmarried man is anxious about the things of the Lord, how to please the Lord. 33But the married man is anxious about worldly things, how to please his wife, 34and his interests are divided. And the unmarried or betrothed woman is anxious about the things of the Lord, how to be holy in body and spirit. But the married woman is anxious about worldly things, how to please her husband. 35I 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.

This is very significant. Remember, this is not a commandment on how one MUST act (it is not a command to not get married) but **it is** mature wisdom from a godly leader to take into great consideration.

Paul’s main point is summed up in the latter part of verse 28 “those who marry will have worldly troubles, and I would spare you that.”

There and throughout this passage, Paul speaks to the serious reality that marriage is real work and it takes a serious amount of time and effort. He says plainly that it divides a person’s focus and availability.

Now, be clear here, since marriage is a good gift and designed by God for important gospel ministry and procreation and raising children in the Lord it is to be valued and stewarded well by those God has prepared and called to marriage.

There are many ways our society, our families and even our own childhood creaming has persuaded many to make an idol out of marriage. Thinking too much about the need to be married and then when married allowing your spouse to turn into your functional savior. This is bad and is a real struggle for our flesh!!

However, the reality of *divided attention* is where Paul’s mature wisdom is most focused. This means even when it is good and God honoring it is still a divide of our time and attention from kingdom service, testimony and disciple making.

Like a caring pastor or father, he is saying “count the cost” of entering into marriage. It has a real cost and you need to consider if singleness is the gift/calling for you.

Listen to v32-25 again.

I want you to be free from anxieties. The unmarried man is anxious about the things of the Lord, how to please the Lord. 33But the married man is anxious about worldly things, how to please his wife, 34and his interests are divided. And the unmarried or betrothed woman is anxious about the things of the Lord, how to be holy in body and spirit. But the married woman is anxious about worldly things, how to please her husband. 35I 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 7:32-35**

There is his goal, in verse 35, he wants to “promote good order and to secure your undivided devotion to the Lord.”

What a blessing mature, wise counsel is. Far too often we press on with our own ideas or let our desires lead us, when we should seek wise counsel.

**Proverbs 15:22** Without counsel plans fail, but with many advisers they succeed.

* So, without scoffing at marriage, we all need to say *with Paul*, that singleness does promote a unique opportunity to serve the Lord with more focus and time.

When we consider that the time is short and the kingdom of God is at hand, priority and devotion to serving the Lord must be high on our list!!

Serving the Lord with more focus is a high, high honor and truly a worthy priority.

**Singles……do you get this?** Since God is sovereign, and He has you single *right now*, possibly for the rest of your life…do you see that the reason is to provide you a unique opportunity to serve the Lord *with better focus and more time*?

I encourage you to embrace this as a blessing. It is a true honor to be called by the Lord to do the work of the Lord and to be given a lot in life that allows you to do it well!

In other words, Don’t waste your singleness. It has a specific and high purpose. You belong to the Lord…he gives you breath each day to live for Him….and He has you single for this reason. Please don’t waste your singleness. It can be easy to take the extra time and freedom afford you in your singleness and then squander it with worldly things, Netflix watching and wasting time. To this I also say, don’t waste your singleness.

**Consider with me a few** practical ways you can Not waster your singleness.

Singles can take the **emotional investment** that normally goes into having a spouse and redirect that care and concern to others.

* That can equal being more in tune with the spiritual health and temptations of other believers in your life:

**Eph 4:25** Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another.

**Heb 3:13** But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called “today,” that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.

* That can also equal being more in tune with the needs for encouragement of other believers in your life:

**1Th 5:11** Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

**Heb 10:24** And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works

* That can also equal being more regular in prayer for other believers in your life:

**James 5:16** …pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.

Also, singles can take the **time investment** that normally goes into having a spouse and redirect that care and concern to others:

* That can equal being more diligent in hosting and welcoming other believers in your life:

**1Pe 4:9** Show hospitality to one another without grumbling.

**Rom 15:7** Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

* That can also equal the incredibly important task of serving other believers in your life, in a way that is increased over someone who has divided ability due to marriage:

**Gal 5:13** For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.

These things and others can play themselves out in ways that does so much good to others and displays just how glorious God is! The opportunities of a single person to use the undivided devotion to the Lord are wonderfully endless.

Singles, we hope you are diligent in these things, and looking for more ways to grow in them.

* **Liberty in the Choice**

Shifting bask to our text, let’s be clear about something: looking to get married or getting married (if you are eligible per God’s terms), is not sin (so long as it’s not an idol). Look at one example of this in the next few verses:

**1 Corinthians 7:36-38** If anyone thinks that he is not behaving properly toward his betrothed, if his passions are strong, and it has to be, let him do as he wishes: let them marry—it is no sin. 37But whoever is firmly established in his heart, being under no necessity but having his desire under control, and has determined this in his heart, to keep her as his betrothed, he will do well. 38So then he who marries his betrothed does well, and he who refrains from marriage will do even better.

Remember, this is not a universal permission for **anyone** to get married regardless of the circumstances. This has to be understood in light of the rest of Scripture. Those seeking marriage can only marry in the Lord (to another believer that is), and so long as a previous spouse is no longer living. We’ve seen these biblical terms in our previous lessons.

So… It is not a sin to get married: Paul says, “he who marries his betrothed does well.” Marriage is good.

But, “he who refrains from marriage will do even better”. This is in regard to a unique opportunity to serve the Lord with more focus in this short life, *it is better to be single* Paul says.

**Does this mean no one should get married?** **No. Marriage is a good gift as well.**

God’s Creation Ordinance of procreation requires marriage still happen and to put on display the Lords Covenant with his bride is a good gospel witness that marriage gets to point too.

Your pastors have been, and will continue to pray this: “Lord, will you please give our singles this understanding, would you give our singles a zeal to honor you in this. Would you give our singles who are not eligible to be remarried the good news of this. Would you give some of our singles who can be married desire to not be, so that they can have the sweet gift of undivided devotion to you, Lord.”

* **Widows**

In the last two verses of the chapter Paul speaks directly to widows and carries on this theme:

**1 Corinthians 7:39-40** A wife is bound to her husband as long as he lives. But if her husband dies, she is free to be married to whom she wishes, only in the Lord. **40**Yet in my judgment she is happier if she remains as she is. And I think that I too have the Spirit of God.

In **1 Timothy 5:14**, Paul says, I would have younger widows marry, bear children, manage their households, and give the adversary no occasion for slander.

So, we can see that there is good reason for younger widows to be open to a new marriage if the right opportunity presents itself, therefore, don’t take our 1 Cor 7 passage to mean, a widow cannot or should not have a new marriage. But, he does say, (in light of the troubles that come with marriage and the distraction from ministry it can be), consider that, quote, “in my judgment she is happier if she remains as she is.”

Widows please see that God is saying through Paul: considering all truth, there is a special happiness in Christ available for those who are single when they are thinking like the Lord.

God loves singleness because it is a unique opportunity to serve the Lord with more focus.

And there is a high joy in serving the Lord. Therefore, if one thinks like the Lord *on this point*, the widow (and other singles) who are in a position to take advantage of their singleness will be happier if he/she remains unmarried and lives out the life of singlehood service.

Widows, singles, if that’s not where you are now, if that’s not your heart, then I invite you to truly consider all of these layers.

Now for some of you, true confession and repentance is needed regarding this topic because you have held God in contention or maybe even considered God your enemy on this topic as you have resented His sovereign plan for your life. If this is you, Repent of this, and run to Him as the loving Father that He is to you.

You have a real opportunity here to put away the priority of fleshly thoughts and feelings, and put on new thoughts and feelings that truly reveal your contentment in Christ and joy to serve God.

You too can say, with the Lord Jesus, *“My singleness is a good gift, and I am happy to serve God uniquely as single. My God is a good, wise God. He is my treasure.”*

Now, some of you are essentially living the single life because you are a spouse who has abandoned you or are formerly divorced. If you have understood our prior teaching on remaining faithful to the covenant you have made until dead do you part then while you are technically not single you are in a position to honor the Lord like a single person with your time and focus. There are two ways you can respond to this reality, resent it and think you are being cheated or you can trust the Lord and make the most of your days to serve the Lord. The last think you should do is make an enemy of God. No, instead we need to trust him, love him and honor him in all we do.

This is big stuff. It hits home in the most real and personal ways. Hopefully the word of God—the truths of God—are shaping all of us to conform to Christ.

Before we wrap up with some more points and encouragements, let’s try to help you with some other Scripture, as we like to do.

Now, some will often bring up **Genesis 2:18** and say, doesn’t God say “it is not good for man to be alone” Let’s be sure we are understand this rightly. So let’s look at it.

In the creation account, as God created, we see that He made man first. Then He declared these words, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him” (**Gen. 2:18**). So Eve was also made. Woman was created.

Now, some point to this to say that “marriage is necessary, God said after all, ‘It is not good for the man to be alone.’” But that’s too simplistic of a reading.

Yes, a significant part of this was God creating the proper marriage companion. But other significant things were happening here.

One being that the image-of-God-intention that God gave mankind is not complete without woman, as Gen 1:27 says, “So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; **male and female** he created them.” So Gen. 2:18 is not just about marriage.

Next, while marriage was certainly in view for Adam (as Eve herself was created by God for marriage and procreation with Adam), this doesn’t condemn singleness.

Marriage and procreation **is** the ordained way God carries out this plan for creation and for how procreation would happen so that man could fill the earth.

But this verse doesn’t mean that Paul’s endorsement that in these last days, many would receive God’s call on them to remain single as a good and helpful things.

This doesn’t mean we can’t raise and teach our daughters how to be godly wives and our sons to be godly husbands but it also means we need to teach them that marriage is not the highest goal, it may be a gift for them, or singleness may be the gift for them.

The fact that marriage might be seen as “the norm” for many **does not mean** the alternative, (singleness), is in any way subpar. Nor should we the church talk about it this way.

We know this based on what we’ve seen tonight, that singleness is didactically called GOOD and even encouraged now in the New Covenant. We can clearly see that God can and does use both the single person and the married person to accomplish his good will and ways.

\We should see that Gen 2:18 is about a suitable spouse for Adam, yes, but also more than that… The depth of Genesis 2:18 is about community, as opposed to solitariness. And we’ll build out this point in a moment.

**You could say that, God is anti-aloneness, not ant-singleness.**

God designed mankind not to do life alone. It is only our sin that makes us anti-people and wanting to often retreat to ourselves. In this many end up living very lonely lives and then sometimes loath in it…even acting like the victim. Please know that both Married people and single people do this. We must see that It’s our flesh working against God’s design of multilayered companionship. God created us to be social beings and to thrive in community. We are mean to be an important part of a community of people, supporting one another, serving one another, etc.

It was Adam and Eves sin that drove them apart form each other and from God and it was Christ who saved us and brings us back into true unity and community in his blood bought family. We don’t need marriage for this. We need the Lord and the church for this!!

To begin to wrap up this lesson..

The ultimate thing we can say about singleness, is that it exists for God’s glory.

**Romans 11:36** For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen

Next, remaining single doesn’t mean you have to give up caring for children. If you don’t have children biologically or by adoption to care for, you still have many parenting realities within God’s family.

Don’t forget that Marriage and blood family are temporary and for this age only; but the church is forever—the blood bought family of God is forever.

Jesus came into the world to call out a people for His name from all the families into a new family where single people in Christ are full-fledged family members on a par with all others, bearing fruit for God and **becoming mothers and fathers of the eternal kind**.

Piper shows us, “In **Mark 10:29-30**, Jesus said, “Truly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or lands, for my sake and for the gospel, who will not receive a hundredfold now in this time, houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions, and in the age to come eternal life.”

Here Jesus shifts the absolute from having children biologically to having hundreds of children through the family of Christ and through spiritual influence. It might include adoption. It might include foster care. … It might include your nursery job or your care for your nieces and nephews or the Sunday School class you teach.”

The point is: Marriage and having children biologically or by adoption is NOT necessary for loving children, fostering children and caring for children, and teaching God’s truths to children in hopes they become followers of Jesus. Singles, please know your role in kid’s lives can be as significant as you want to make it. You can parent children in very, very real ways.

Next, some will ask **what about the creation ordinance that we learned about in a prior lesson?**

**We could ask it this way, How does a person given the gift of singleness honor the marriage ordinance?**

They would do this not by having a marriage themselves, rather they honor the marriage ordinance:

By lifting up God’s design for marriage,

by speaking of God’s design for marriage,

by encouraging others in God’s design for marriage,

by not voting to approve an ungodly definitions/practices of marriage,

by not tempting a married person with sexual immorality, and so on.

The ordinance is still a reality in the creation they live in—God’s creation—so they honor it in ways appropriate for them.

And remember, everyone who is united to Christ by faith as the bride **will** experience the holy and eternal union with Christ **forever**.

Don’t ever forget that marriage is momentary and serves God’s purposes only in this creation. We know what human marriage points to, the ultimate marriage of Christ and His Church. And that is a marriage all the saved are in. That is the eternally important marriage. That marriage is not just for a short time but forever. May we all be eternally-minded people.

Lastly, to the married in the room or hearing this audio later, hopefully this lesson has given you also a more biblical view of singleness. May it fuel your love and care for singles in our life and in our church. We need to be rid of any fleshly thinking that would cause us to see them as missing out or living a second rate life.

Let me ask you married folks,  **how are you doing living out the “one another’s” towards singles?**

We must Speak God’s truth to one another, Instruct one another, Live in harmony with one another, Encourage one another, Stir up one another to love and good works, Buildup of one another, Welcome one another, Show hospitality to one another, Value one another, Bear one another’s burdens, Serve one another, Regard one another as more important than yourselves, Have fellowship with one another in truth, and on and on.

If you’re married, let’s make it a good priority to spend quality time with single and or widowed people as they are just as much a valued part of our church as those who are married.

and….and if you’re single please aim to do this well with the married people in your life.

May we all be the proactive in these things with all of our church family.

**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.

Church, singleness is a glorious thing and for many it is worthy to be embraced and pursued.

Let’s us thank God for His design and purpose of it. Living life without a spouse is not second rate.

Marriage is not the ultimate treasure, knowing Christ is.

Being single is a gift from God, and should be intentionally used for His glory.

We are excited to lift up and teach on the honor of Singleness in this series. Fill your mind and heart with the reality that being unmarried is not a curse, it is not second rate, it is not something to forsake.

For many it is something to embrace and live out well.

Let’s pray…