

## WALK THE TALK //////////////////////////////////////

This page is designed for you to apply what you have learned from the Scriptures. Our goal is not just “to know” but to “act upon what we know.” (His Word, Our Walk!) We encourage you to discuss the following questions with family, friends and your group.



### FOR DISCUSSION:

1. Which part of this series has been most helpful and why?
2. What did you learn about the gift of celibacy?
3. What are the key messages that Paul is trying to communicate to men and women in the chapter, in your opinion?
4. What are the main lessons for those who are single? Those who are engaged?
5. What is your favorite part of chapter 7 and why? With which parts of this chapter are you still struggling?

### MEMORY VERSE FOR THIS SERIES

*1Cor. 7:17 Nevertheless, each person should live as a believer in whatever situation the Lord has assigned to them, just as God has called them. This is the rule I lay down in all the churches.*



August 11 & 12, 2018 | Married or Single #5 | 1Corinthians 7:25-40 | Dennis Miller, pastor

### TWO THOUGHTS FOR THIS SERIES:

1. Whether married or single, be committed to IMPROVING yourself and your RELATIONSHIPS.

2. Whether married or single, be CONTENT.

*1Cor. 7:17 Nevertheless, each person should live as a believer in whatever situation the Lord has assigned to them, just as God has called them. . . .*

### LET'S REVIEW WHAT WE'VE LEARNED

1. Paul is responding in a “grandfatherly” way to QUESTIONS posed in a letter to him by the CHURCH at Corinth.

*1Cor. 7:1 Now for the matters you wrote about: . . .*

*1Cor. 16:17 I was glad when Stephanas, Fortunatus and Achaicus arrived, because they have supplied what was lacking from you.*

2. In a sexually immoral society where marriage was not highly VALUED, two groups in the church were saying opposite things. The Christian Jews were saying that everyone MUST be married. While the Greeks were teaching that a person who wanted to be CLOSE to God would remain or become SINGLE.

3. Paul apparently quotes one of THEIR statements from the letter and this becomes the BACKDROP for all of chapter 7.

*1Cor. 7:1 . . . “It is good for a man not to have sexual relations with a woman.” (?)*

4. Paul's first instruction is to MARRIED couples encouraging them to have a PHYSICAL relationship (asceticism), and to remain married (no divorce).

5. Next, Paul told those already DIVORCED or widowed to REMAIN as they are, or to marry because of physical desire.

6. Next, he told those with unbelieving spouses to REMAIN married to them if the unbeliever is WILLING.

7. Paul then explains CONTENTMENT in relationships (17-24).

### **TO THOSE WHO ARE SINGLE**

*1Cor. 7:25 Now about virgins: I have no command from the Lord, but I give a judgment as one who by the Lord's mercy is trustworthy. 26 Because of the present crisis, I think that it is good for a man to remain as he is. 27 Are you pledged to a woman? Do not seek to be released. Are you free from such a commitment? Do not look for a wife. 28 But if you do marry, you have not sinned; and if a virgin marries, she has not sinned. But those who marry will face many troubles in this life, and I want to spare you this. 29 What I mean, brothers and sisters, is that the time is short. From now on those who have wives should live as if they do not; 30 those who mourn, as if they did not; those who are happy, as if they were not; those who buy something, as if it were not theirs to keep; 31 those who use the things of the world, as if not engrossed in them. For this world in its present form is passing away. 32 I would like you to be free from concern. An unmarried man is concerned about the Lord's affairs—how he can please the Lord. 33 But a married man is concerned about the affairs of this world—how he can please his wife— 34 and his interests are divided. An unmarried woman or virgin is concerned about the Lord's affairs: Her aim is to be devoted to the Lord in both body and spirit. But a married woman is concerned about the affairs of this world—how she can please her husband. 35 I am saying this for your own good, not to restrict you, but that you may live in a right way in undivided devotion to the Lord. . . . 39 A woman is bound to her husband as long as he lives. But if her husband dies, she is free to marry anyone she wishes, but he must belong to the Lord. 40 In my judgment, she is happier if she stays as she is—and I think that I too have the Spirit of God.*

1. This section is addressed to VIRGINS (παρθένος, parthenos) — both men and women. Paul had no direct WORD from the Lord on this issue, but offers his GUIDANCE in the matter.

2. The focus of the teaching is that it is good to REMAIN unmarried (gift of celibacy), but it is also GOOD to be married.

*Matt. 19:11 Jesus replied, "Not everyone can accept this word, but only those to whom it has been given. 12 For there are eunuchs who were born that way, and there are eunuchs who have been made eunuchs by others—and there are those who choose to live like eunuchs for the sake of the kingdom of heaven. The one who can accept this should accept it."*

3. Paul offers the following reasons why a person might choose NOT to marry:

a. Because of the present CRISIS — possibly referring to the coming PERSECUTION of Christians. (26-27)

*1Cor. 11:30 That is why many among you are weak and sick, and a number of you have fallen asleep.*

b. Because of the troubles (θλίψις, thlipsis) in the FLESH (σάρξ, sarx). Marriage can MULTIPLY your troubles. (28)

c. Because the time is SHORT. Think and live with an ETERNAL perspective. Don't be distracted from your spiritual walk by the following: (29-31)

— MARRIAGE

— SORROW or JOY

— Buying and using THINGS

d. Because of the CONCERNS of marriage. (32)

e. Because marriage is for LIFE and cannot be undone. (39)

4. These teachings are not to KEEP people from marrying, but to help them THINK through the ramifications of a relationship.

### **TO THOSE WHO ARE ENGAGED**

*1Cor. 7:36 If anyone is worried that he might not be acting honorably toward the virgin he is engaged to, and if his passions are too strong and he feels he ought to marry, he should do as he wants. He is not sinning. They should get married. 37 But the man who has settled the matter in his own mind, who is under no compulsion but has control over his own will, and who has made up his mind not to marry the virgin—this man also does the right thing. 38 So then, he who marries the virgin does right, but he who does not marry her does better.*

1. If you have a "special someone", and you have a STRONG physical desire, get MARRIED.

2. If you don't have a strong desire, don't be PRESSURED into marriage by SOCIETY. In that case, remain single.

### **LESSONS**

1. Think and pray CAREFULLY before making the PERMANENT step of marriage.

2. Being married or single are both GOOD options. Just learn to be CONTENT in your situation.