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**Sermon: *God’s Word to His Church on Singleness***

**Scripture: 1 Corinthians 7:7, 17, 25-38**

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**Introduction:**

Within the church our circumstances are diverse, but we are unified in our priority of love for God and one another.

Paul upholds marriage yet affirms the value & purpose of singleness for both the individual and the body of Christ.

1. **SINGLENESS IS A GIFT OF GOD.***(vs. 7, 17)*

* Singleness is according to God’s will & purposes. *(1 Corinthians 12:11; Romans 8:28)*
* Singleness is strengthened by God’s grace & power.  *(Romans 12:6; Ephesians 6:10)*

1. **SINGLENESS IS FOR A SEASON** (and so is marriage). *(vs. 8-9, 17, 25-31)*

* Singleness and marriage may be temporary circumstances of this life, but they are certainly temporary conditions in light of eternity! *(Ephesians 5:16; John 12:35)*

*"Only let each person lead the life that the Lord has assigned to him,*

*and to which God has called him. This is my rule in all the churches.". (1 Corinthians 7:17)*

* Whatever your race, run it with eternity in view. *(Hebrews 12:1-2)*

1. **SINGLENESS HAS GENUINE BENEFITS.***(v. 8, 32-38)*

* The single has unique freedoms and flexibility in life & ministry.
* Both the single and the church will be stronger when every individual is exercising their gifts in love for God and His church. *(Ephesians 4:15-16)*

1. **SINGLENESS HAS INTENSE STRUGGLES.** *(v. 9, 36-38)*

* Singleness can intensify the struggles of lust and loneliness, leading to overwhelming temptation and deep discouragement. *(1 Peter 5:8-10)*
* The church must be the single’s partner in the fight! *(2 Timothy 2:22; Ephesians 6:10; Hebrews 10:23-25)*

**Conclusion:**

**A plea to the body of Christ regarding singleness:**

* Be biblical.
* Be inclusive.
* Be affirming.

**Questions to Consider:**

1. How does the priority of love affect the perspective of both the married and the single towards singleness?
2. Paul encouraged singleness “in the present distress.” What are some reasons someone might wisely choose to remain single in our present culture?
3. If singleness is a gift of God, how should it change how we think and talk about it?
4. How ought v. 17 encourage and strengthen the believer who is single?
5. How are the struggles of a believer who is single different from the struggles of the married believer? How can the body of Christ be an encouragement and help in these struggles?