

"God's Peace for Perplexing Problems: Serenity in Singleness"

1 Corinthians 7:7-9, 32-35 September 15, 2015

***Please register your ATTENDANCE

Sign up for REFRESHMENTS. Thank you!

Prayer Requests & Opening Prayer

⁷ I wish that all of you were as I am. But each of you has your own gift from God; one has this gift, another has that.

⁸ Now to the unmarried (*or widowers*) and the widows I say: It is good for them to stay unmarried, as I do. ⁹ But if they cannot control themselves, they should marry, for it is better to marry than to burn with passion.

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.

1. Read 1 Corinthians 7:7-9, 32-35. Have you always been single, or are you divorced and have not remarried, or did your spouse pass away? You are invited to tell your story. How has your faith given you guidance? How has your church helped or hurt? How have family or friends helped or hurt?

2. Reread verse 7. Paul has chosen singleness as his calling from God. Have you or someone you know chosen singleness as a life-long calling?

3. According to Paul, some have the gift of singleness, and some have the gift of marriage. How is singleness a gift from God? What are the joys of singleness? The struggles?

4. Would you say that singleness has a stigma in culture and even in our churches? Have you experienced this prejudice or seen others experience it? How would Paul respond to this bias?

Closing Prayer

Loving God, teach us the gift you give in singleness, whether for ourselves or for others. Help us to know that whether single or married, our calling is the same: to love you with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength, and to love others the way we want to be loved. In Jesus Name. Amen.