

- I) V1-9 INTRO: Now concerning the things of which you wrote to me: *It is good* for a man not to
  - a) We have entered in to a study on marriage and the family
    - 1) When last together, I spoke specifically to singles and would like to continue doing so
    - 2) SINGLES: Anxious to get married and to have children: WHY?
  
- II) AS WE BEGIN: Paul is answering a question he had been asked by the Church in Corinth
  - a) They had asked him a question concerning marriage
    - 1) THE QUESTION: Is it better to be single or to be married?
  
- III) CONTEXT: Paul had just instructed the church concerning sexual sin (1 Co 6:18-20)
  - a) He warned them about *being deceived* about the sins of *fornication* and *adultery* (1 Co 6:9-10)
    - 1) **FORNICATION:** Porneia: A word that covers sexual activity; it specifically speaks of what once was called illicit sexual intercourse and included homosexuality, lesbianism, incest and bestiality
    - 2) **ADULTERY:** Intercourse with the spouse of another or while married to another
  
- V) POINT: Sexual intimacy is reserved for marriage and is to be enjoyed only in marriage
  - a) TODAY: Most think marriage is not a necessary to enjoy sexual intercourse
    - 1) Many even celebrate pregnancy outside of marriage
    - 2) Jamie Lynn Spears, Jessica Alba, Selma Hayek, Elizabeth Hurley, Katie Holmes, Reese Witherspoon, Michelle Williams, Hallie Berry, Angelina Jolie, and even Goldie Hawn
    - 3) IN SOME COMMUNITIES: Up to 80% of pregnancies are out of wedlock
  
- VI) THE QUESTION IS: Does scripture teach that this is acceptable to the Lord
  - a) AS CHRISTIANS: We desire to do the will of God, but what is His will concerning this
    - 1) 1 Th 4:3-6 This is the will of God, your sanctification: that you should abstain from sexual immorality; that each of you should know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor, not in passion of lust, like the Gentiles who do not know God; that no one should take advantage of and defraud his brother in this matter, because the Lord *is* the avenger of all such, as we also forewarned you and testified.
    - 2) Heb 13:4 Marriage *is* honorable among all, and the bed undefiled; but fornicators and adulterers God will judge.
  
- VII) WHAT: Can help us remain sexually pure as singles, or faithful as those who are married
  - a) KEY: One thing that can help is to simply remember *who we are*
    - 1) 1 Co 6:19-20 You are bought at a price: The precious blood of Jesus Christ
  
- VIII) KEY: We do not belong to ourselves any longer; we are His and are to glorify Him *in everything*
  - a) Phil 1:20 I eagerly expect and hope that I will in no way be ashamed, but will have sufficient courage so that now as always Christ will be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death.
  
- IX) BEING SINGLE: Has its advantages and Paul makes it clear that he preferred being single
  - a) V1 This is why he writes *It is good* for a man not to *touch* a woman
    - 1) TOUCH: This speaks of sexual intercourse
    - 2) Pr 6:28-29 Can one walk on hot coals, and his feet not be seared? So is he who goes in to his neighbor's wife; whoever *touches* her shall not be innocent.

- I) **INTERESTINGLY:** His thought was contrary to prevailing *religious opinion*
  - a) Jews thought singleness broke God's commandment in Gen 1:28 "be fruitful and multiply"
    - 1) Paul was inspired by God's Spirit differently: Singleness has spiritual benefits
- II) **V2 NEVERTHELESS:** Because of *sexual immorality* let each man have his own wife
  - a) **POINT:** Sexual desires are part of our make up: They can drive us to sinful ways of expression
    - 1) We are created with them and it is natural for us to desire to find a way of expressing them
    - 2) **POINT:** Marriage is the proper place for the expression of these kinds of desires
- III) **IN THE ORIGINAL CREATION OF MAN:** God intended for Adam to have a companion
  - a) Gen 2:18 God said, It is not good for the man *to be alone*. I will make a helper suitable for him
    - 1) This shows that marriage is part of God's original plan and was divinely instituted
- IV) **VOLUNTARY CELIBACY IS GOOD:** But not necessarily a requirement for all (V7)
  - a) **SADLY:** Some religious systems actually teach that celibacy is *necessary* to serve God
    - 1) 1 Ti 4:3 Says the fruit of demonic doctrine is the *forbidding of marriage*
    - 2) **THE FACT IS:** You are not more spiritual if you do not marry
    - 3) **KEY:** Some have the gift of celibacy that is exercised in *their undistracted service to God*
- V) **PART OF THE PROBLEM IS:** That people think that married life *is better* than singleness
  - a) **OBVIOUSLY:** Married life has its benefits but is not a superior way of life
    - 1) The best life is the one lived out serving the Lord, whether single or married
    - 2) **AGAIN:** There are worse things than being alone: You do not want to end up unequally yoked!
    - 3) 2 Co 6:14 Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers
- VI) **V2 NEVERTHELESS:** Because of sexual immorality let each man have his own wife
  - a) Sexual desire can drive us to find a way to satisfy it: Marriage is the proper place for it
- VII) **V3-5 LET:** The husband *render* to his wife the affection due her and likewise also the wife to her
  - a) **RENDER:** To pay what is due; this is a debt of love, not simply self-satisfaction
    - 1) **KEY:** Studies demonstrate a higher level of ongoing satisfaction for those married
    - 2) **AFFAIRS:** Give a short-lived time of excitement
    - 3) Pr 9:17 Stolen water is sweet, and bread eaten in secret is pleasant
- VIII) **SEXUAL DESIRE:** Is part of our make-up and has a proper place of expression
  - a) Scripture actually gives us encouragement to enjoy this in marriage
    - 1) Pr 5:18-19 May your fountain be blessed, and may you rejoice in the wife of your youth. A loving doe, a graceful deer-- may her breasts satisfy you always, may you ever be captivated by her love.
- IX) **V4 THE WIFE:** Does not have authority over *her own body* but the husband does
  - a) **HIS POINT:** Sexual needs are experienced by both men and women! You are now one
    - 1) Eph 5:21 Submitting to one another in the fear of God
- X) **V5 INTERESTINGLY:** Do not *deprive* one another except with consent for a time that you may
  - a) **LEGITIMATE DEPRIVATION:** Time of prayer, with mutual consent
    - 1) **HIS POINT:** You can become preoccupied with ministry, and not minister in this area

- I) V6 I SAY THIS AS A *CONCESSION*: Sungnome: To have a joint opinion, common mind
  - a) THOUGHT: Marriage is not for all: I am not saying all have to be married
  
- II) V7-9 FOR: I wish that all men were even as I myself But each one has his own *gift from God*
  - a) Celibacy is a gift from God that sets you free to minister
    - 1) Mt 19:12 others have *renounced marriage* because of the kingdom of heaven
    - 2) MARRIAGE: By its very nature brings great distractions and limits service to the Lord
  
- III) V32-35 BUT: I want you to *be without care* He who is unmarried cares for the things that belong
  - a) In marriage, there is a concern for the things of this world
    - 1) The husband: How he can please his wife
    - 2) The wife: How she can please her husband
    - 3) Parents: How they can survive their children
  
- IV) REMEMBER: Paul is not writing against marriage:
  - a) WHAT HE IS CONCERNED FOR: Is the *expansion* of the Kingdom of God
  
- V) V32 NOTICE PAUL'S CONCERN: I want you to be without care
  - a) *Care*: Anxiety, worry, concern
    - 1) THOUGHT: Marriage produces care, anxiety, and concern
  
- VI) THE FACT IS: Marriage divides the attention between serving Jesus and caring for your mate
  - a) OBVIOUSLY: Caring for our mates is of great importance
    - 1) 1 Ti 5:8 If anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for his immediate family, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.
  
- VII) YET: Very often, in order to keep the home happy, ministry is stifled
  - a) SOME HUSBANDS OR WIVES: Do not like too much involvement: can be carnal about it
    - 1) They can actively restrain you from growth and service by demanding attention
    - 2) Wait on God's best and serve Him as you wait
  
- VIII) IF YOU DESIRE MARRIAGE: Make four determinations
  - a) FIRST: Wait for the right one and trust the Lord!
  - b) SECOND: Keep yourself pure: Be the right one for someone else
  - c) THIRD: Remain active, serving the Lord
  - d) FOURTH: Resist temptation to compromise in any way: Look for a genuine believer!
  
- IX) KEY: Wait for God's choice for your life: Serve God first, while you wait on Him
  - a) Ps 37:4 Delight yourself in the LORD and he will give you the desires of your heart.