

## Glorifying God While Being Unmarried

1 Corinthians 6:9-20; 7:6-9

### Overview

#### **Understand the Purpose of Sex**

- Some in the Corinthian church thought that sex was just another appetite to be fulfilled
- Paul corrects their thinking; our bodies do not just contain appetites, but are instruments to sing God's praise both now and forever
- The body is not made for sex but for the Lord
- The good news of the gospel is that our sin, even sexual sin, need not define us because in Christ we are washed, sanctified and justified.

#### **Celebrate and Strategically Use the Gift of Singleness**

- The gift of singleness is not the absence of marital desire but the presence of God-given ability to build up the church to the glory of Christ
  - Paul uses the same word "gift" in 1 Corinthians 12 to show gifts are from God for the common good
  - Peter also uses this same word, "gift," in 4:10 iterating the same idea
  - This means the gift of singleness is not just for a select few, but all those who are unmarried; it may not last for a lifetime and can even be stewarded effectively when people struggle with why God has not provided a spouse
- Those with the gift of singleness can celebrate at least two things:
  - The unique way they remind us that God's family is built by spiritual and not physical birth
  - The unique way they show the supremacy and satisfaction of Jesus Christ
- Those with the gift of singleness can strategically use that gift to advance the gospel in ways the married person cannot
  - Paul remind us of the reality that marriage absorbs time, energy, money and other resources that could otherwise be
    - NOTE: Paul is not saying marriage compromises a person's relationship with Jesus nor is he undermining marriage
  - The simple fact is that unmarried persons have more flexibility and can use that to advance the gospel and build up their brothers and sisters in Christ

#### **If So Desirable, Pursue Marriage**

- Scripture clearly has a category for those who desire to be married, but are not; in those cases these people should pursue marriage and all that it means to be married

### Questions

**Discussion Starter:** *In general what is our culture's view toward sex, singleness and marriage and singleness?*

1. Read 1 Corinthians 6:9-20. In these verses how do some Corinthians view sex? How does that match the way our culture views sex?
2. In verses 15-16, how does Paul show that sexual relations with someone you're not married to is contrary to God's purposes for sex? Why is it important to understand the purpose behind sex before giving a prohibition about sex?

3. Looking specifically at verses 9-12 and 18-20 how does the gospel both comfort us in our sin and encourage us to be faithful to Christ?
4. Read 1 Corinthians 7:6-9. Paul says being married is a gift and being unmarried is a gift. Specifically, what is the gift of singleness (cf. 1 Cor. 12:4; 1 Pt. 4:10)? What are some ways we can celebrate this gift?
5. Read 1 Corinthians 7:32-35. What do these verses tell us about the gift of singleness? Practically speaking, what are some ways this gift can be utilized to advance the gospel in both believer and unbelievers alike?
6. In 1 Corinthians 7:9, Paul says those with marriage desires should pursue marriage. How do we go about doing this with wisdom and integrity all the while trusting God whether he provides a spouse or not? What's the role of community in this endeavor?
7. Read Revelation 19:6-8. How can this bring comfort to those who desire to be married, but currently are not?

**Accountability Question:** *As you think about sex and being married or unmarried, how does the gospel encourage your faithfulness to Christ?*