

1 CORINTHIANS  
**CALLED OUT**  
SMALL GROUP CURRICULUM



Sermon: **Getting Married and Being Single (1 Corinthians 7:32-35)**

Date: **October 2, 2016**

So far in 1 Corinthians 7, Paul has spent a lot of ink teaching the church in Corinth about marriage and singleness. He continues to do so in this week's study. This speaks to the importance of both marriage and singleness. They are gifts that God has given his people to use for His glory. This week's study will help us learn how to steward and maximize the gifts of singleness and marriage. In 1 Corinthians 7:32-35, Paul makes an intentional contrast between single people and married people. He contrasts the benefits of singleness with some of the realities of marriage. We will see that there is a lot of application for us in these few verses. Whether you are single or married, God expects you to selflessly maximize your situation for the glory of God and for the building up of his kingdom.

What you need for this study: Bible, Notebook, Pen

**Individual Bible Study**

1. Please read 1 Corinthians 7:32-35 and ensure that you've listened to Sunday's sermon.
  - a. In verses 32-34, what are some ways in which Paul contrasts married people with unmarried people in these verses?
  - b. What are some benefits of singleness that married people don't have? How could a single person serve the church in a way that a married person cannot? How might some people misunderstand singleness?
  - c. What should the focus of the 'virgin' woman and the unmarried woman be? What are some ways they might be tempted to have their focus off? What should we teach our daughters to focus on and what should we teach them not to focus on?
  - d. What should the focus of a married person be? What are some things husbands can do to better please and serve their wives? What are some things that wives can do to better please and serve their husbands?
  - e. What are some pitfalls that husbands may fall into in being selfish? What are some pitfalls that wives may fall into in being selfish?

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- f. According to verse 35, what is the purpose of what Paul is telling us and what is not the purpose?
- g. How come it's tempting to see the Bible's prohibitions as restraining? How can we teach it to be a blessing?
- h. How does Paul's teaching reflect God's design for how we should live?
- i. What is the world's definition of freedom and how does that contrast with the Christian's definition of freedom?
- j. How does the Christian life promote true beauty? How does cultivating internal beauty promote outward beauty?

**Group Discussion Questions**

1. How did the Holy Spirit speak to you through the sermon and the Bible study this week?
2. What are some ways in which a single person might be tempted to misunderstand their singleness? How can we encourage singles in our church to see their singleness as a gift from the Lord and to use it to serve him?
3. How should the focus of a married man be different than the focus of a single man? What can husbands do to better please and serve their wives?
4. How should the focus of a married woman be different than the focus of a single woman? What can wives do to better please and serve their husbands?
5. What does the world teach our children to focus on while they're single? What should we teach our sons to focus on before they are married? What should we teach our daughters to focus on before they are married?
6. What can we do to cultivate an attitude that sees prohibitions and restrictions in Scripture as a blessing (v. 35)?