

“THE SWEETNESS OF SINGLENES”
I Corinthians 7:7-8; 24-39

1. We have to see singleness as a good life. (11:7-8; 26).

Many singles see themselves as less fulfilled than married couples. The church is sometimes guilty of this too.

I know of a very godly man who was elected as a deacon and some in the church questioned his qualification because he had never been married. The Bible says singleness is good.

2. We have to see singleness as a called life. (11:24).

The calling on our lives is that purpose for which God Almighty created us for, ordained us to, and equipped us with everything necessary to fulfill His eternal purpose through our lives.

Some singles think they are not going to experience ultimate fulfillment in life unless they get married. Listen, I know many married people who are not fulfilled in their lives.

I heard about a lady who was talking with another lady at a party. She noticed something odd and asked, “Is that a wedding ring?” The other lady said, “Yes, it is.” Well, aren’t you wearing your wedding ring on the wrong finger?” asked the first lady. The other replied, “Yes I am. You see, I married the wrong man.”

Fulfillment doesn’t come through marriage. Fulfillment comes through living out God’s calling on our lives.

3. We have to see singleness as a committed life. (11:32-35).

4. We have to see singleness as a protected life.

As a single adult, one is given the unique opportunity to be totally devoted to the Lord and His work. We have some single adults in this church who are giving their all to work of the Lord.

Paul tells us in this passage that married people have other concerns of which singles are free from:

A. The *present distress* (11:26)

This is probably a reference to persecution the church was encountering at the hand of the Romans. Singles did not have to worry about losing a spouse to such tragedy.

B. The *trouble in this life* (11:28).

Trouble: Can be translated, *anguish, burden*. What kind of trouble, anguish, burden? Paul said, “*I am trying to spare you.*”

Someone once said, married life can be very frustrating. In the first year, the man speaks and the woman listens. In the second year, the woman speaks and the man listens. In the third year, they both speak and the neighbors listen.

C. The *divided life* (11:33-34).

The married have many more concerns in our lives, i.e. how we may please our spouses, take care of our spouses, devote time to our spouses.

5. We have to see singleness as a contented life. (11:27)

“Are you released from a wife? Do not seek a wife.” Some may question, “Well then, how in the world will I ever find one?” Here is how. Get plugged in to the Lord Jesus. Serve Him with all of your heart. Give Him the undistracted time that you have. Claim the truth of His word.

Matthew 6:33 says, “But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.”

Remember how Isaac found his wife Rebekah?

Gen 24:63-64, “Isaac went out to meditate in the field toward evening; and he lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, camels were coming. 64 Rebekah lifted up her eyes, and when she saw Isaac she dismounted from the camel.” NASU

Isaac was about his father’s business. He working in the field. He was not out there playing the field.

God brought Ruth to Boaz.

God brought Eve to Adam.

Our culture has it all wrong. We date to find a spouse. God’s way is to let Him find our spouse and then date so you can get to know them.

I always told my children, “Do not ever date anyone you would not want to marry.” Why? Because we will eventually marry a person we date. The best dating service in the world is the Lord. He will never steer us wrong. He has His best plan for our lives. We need to be content with that.

6. We have to see the single life as the patient life.

A single person who desires to marry needs to be obedient by:

A. Marrying *in the Lord* (11:39).

Marrying an unbeliever will create more problems than it will solve in the long run.

B. Marrying someone to strengthen our Christian growth.

We need to be patient and wait for the Lord to bring that special to us that will love us and assist us in our growth in the Lord.

Do not run out of patience here. Joseph was thirty when God brought him a wife. Isaac was forty.

C. Marrying with the right motive.

The only correct motive for marriage is the assurance that the Lord has brought two people together. Never marry for money, prestige, loneliness, etc. It only leads to disaster.

D. Marrying with the desire for permanence.

Never enter a marriage with option of divorce in your mind.

E. Marrying with desire to give your complete.

Be prepared to sacrifice your own needs and wants for the good of the person you are marrying.

Remember, God's way is the best way.

- **Do you know the Lord personally?**
- **Have you ever trusted Christ as your personal Savior?**
- **Would you be willing to trust Christ today?**
- **Are you a patient single adult?**
- **Are you committed to trust God for His best for your life?**
- **Are you actively serving Him today?**