

GOD'S FAMILY AND SINGLES

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I. INTRODUCTION

- A. The reference to marriage and family as "the most important thing", "the blessing of God" or the "original design of God for our lives" has almost always been heard in churches and although it is true that we need to raise the importance of Family facing a world that increasingly relativizes the value of commitment, marriage, and the formation of a family, we can lose the true biblical balance by leaving singles out.
- B. It is possible that some of us have fallen into the error of giving a greater weight to the need to marry, and of exalting the spouses or motherhood/fatherhood, above what is due and singles may ask themselves: Then why does God not have given us this blessing? Am I doing something wrong? If family is the most important thing, why does God seem to deny that gift to some?

II. THE BIBLICAL VIEW OF SINGLENES

1 Cor. 7:7-9 y 26-40 ***"I wish everyone were as I am [single], but each has his own gift from God. One has one gift. Another has another gift. ⁸ This is what I say to those who are not married and to women whose husbands have died. It is good if you do not get married. I am not married. ⁹ But if you are not able to keep from doing that which you know is wrong, get married. It is better to get married than to have such strong sex desires...***

²⁶ I think, because of the troubles that are coming, it is a good thing for a person not to get married. ²⁷ Are you married to a wife? Do not try to get a divorce. If you are not married, do not look for a wife... ²⁹ I mean this, Christian brothers. The time is short... ³² I want you to be free from the cares of this world. The man who is not married can spend his time working for the Lord and pleasing Him... ³⁵ I am saying these things to help you. I am not trying to keep you from getting married. I want you to do what is best. You should work for Him without other things taking your time... ⁴⁰ I think she [the widow] will be much more happy if she does not get married again. This is what I think. I believe it is what the Holy Spirit is saying."

- A. According to what we see in this passage; the Apostle Paul inspired by the Holy Spirit considers that the first commandment is the most important thing in our lives. As single or married your goal is to glorify God. **In life it is a blessing to get married but life is more than getting married.** If you do not understand the purpose of your singleness, you will live very frustrated comparing yourself with others, which blurs you from the call you have while you are single.

v.7 ***"I wish everyone were as I am [single], but each has his own gift from God..."***

- B. **PAUL CALLS SINGLENES A "GIFT"**. Singleness is something that God gives and as long as they do not marry, all single in Christ have that gift and it is to do something for His glory. Your purpose is to glorify God in everything you do; **You don't have to wait until you're married to glorify God with your life.** There are mainly two visions in which marriage is seen in an unbalanced way:

1. **The Eastern view** says that it says' you are nothing unless you are married, the greatest gift in life is having a family. Without a legacy, there will be no memory

of you. So as soon as you can, you must convince someone to marry you and start a family. The result of this vision is that the spouse is seen as someone necessary for survival or transcendence.

2. **The Western view says that this life is to create a personal empire; it is about you and the pleasures you can absorb and the assurances you can surround yourself with; it is to build yourself a tower in which a spouse or a family is just another brick.** According to this vision, the best thing is more power for you so if you want to get a partner but as an accessory that you can get rid of if it no longer suits you. Marriage is seen as an expensive accessory; the wedding is expensive, etc. and many millennials think so.

- C. These two views are wrong because they assume that singleness is not a gift from God.** God has said that marriage is good; because it is a strategy to make disciples when raising children and it is a portrait of God's commitment to us; it is a metaphor for Christ's relationship with the Church. **God invented marriage to teach us something about Him but the most adequate view is that in Christ we are all complete.**
- D.** The Bible says in **Jn. 1:16** speaking of Jesus, that **"Out of his fullness we have all received."** By participating in the inheritance we have in Christ, we also receive his absolute fullness. **Col. 2: 9-10a "For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead [f]bodily; 10 and you are complete in Him..."** Therefore, we know ourselves full and complete through Him, there being no need that is not supplied by God. **Phil. 4:12** states: **"I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation."** This includes our marital status.
- E. Jesus is the most complete man that ever lived and he is single** (although he has his girlfriend: the Church); when God wanted to be effective as a man He remained single. Paul was a single man and was complete; C. S. Lewis, Corrie Ten Boom; their lives were complete as single because they used their gift of singleness and did not see it as a failure. **They all lived a very full life, so regardless of how you feel, it is God who defines singleness as a good thing. Marriage serves a purpose and singleness also serves a purpose to raise a generation for Him.**
- Mal. 2:15 "But did He not make them one, Having a remnant of the Spirit? And why one? He seeks godly offspring..."**
- F.** Many times we want the gift that another has and we can feel disappointed and not use the gift that we do have. Being married and single implies hard work and you have one of the gifts today and you must use it for the glory of God.
- Jas. 1:17 "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning."**
- G. Paul says that singleness serves the purpose of having undistracted devotion to the Lord.** Being married means being focused on the family. Personally, as a single man, the truth was that he was so busy in the ministry that he did not have as much time to think that he was alone.
- v.32-34 "I want you to be free from the concerns of this life. An unmarried man can spend his time doing the Lord's work and thinking how to please him. ³³ But a married man has to think about his earthly responsibilities and how to please his wife. ³⁴ His interests are divided. In the same way, a woman who is no longer**

married or has never been married can be devoted to the Lord and holy in body and in spirit. But a married woman has to think about her earthly responsibilities and how to please her husband."

H. If you are single and there are invitations to serve, there is no reason why you should not respond to that invitation unless you are already in too many ministries. **That is using the gift of your singleness for the glory of God.** The ministry of singles should be more impressive than that of married people because those of us who are married are distracted. As a married man you can only have two or three full time disciples who are your children but as a single or a couple with an empty nest you can have 30 people who are discipling one by one.

I. **Do not waste your season you must go in with everything and start protecting your heart from the distractions of the enemy because it is time to make a difference with all the things that the Lord has put in your heart.** Jesus said that there are some who remain celibate because of the kingdom of heaven.

Matt. 19:10-12 "His followers said to Him, "If that is the way of a man with his wife [you cannot divorce], it is better not to be married." 11 But Jesus said to them, "Not all men are able to do this, but only those to whom it has been given. 12 For there are some men who from birth will never be able to have children. There are some men who have been made so by men. There are some men who have had themselves made that way because of the holy nation of heaven. The one who is able to do this, let him do it."

III. SINGLENESS AND SELF-CONTROL

1 Cor. 7:9 "But if they cannot control themselves, they should marry, for it is better to marry than to burn with passion."

A. **The biggest distraction to living the purpose of singleness which is total devotion to God is having sex.** Paul says if you are burning with passion then get married; You have two options in life either you use your singleness to dedicate yourself to the Lord or you can make disciples in marriage by having children to love God.

B. Sex outside of marriage has hurt a marriage more than many other things. God invented sex and it serves a purpose to create intimacy between a couple. If you have sex with yourself and you think that when you get married it will be available to you all the time it will not be like that. The female body must be cared for and loved before it can be opened for sex. A pattern of selfishness is going to ruin your marriage before you get married. **In marriage you are sanctified by learning to get along with your spouse and in singleness you are sanctified by staying celibate.** To honor God through the gift of singleness you must know three things about sex:

- 1. The desire for sex is a distraction from God's purpose for your life.**
- 2. Sex is not essential,** no one has died in the history of mankind because of not having sex.
- 3. Sex is not for you as a single person.** If you have sinned you can be forgiven but be sure to remove the temptations.

IV. 5 WAYS TO USE THIS GIFT OF BEING SINGLE

1. **Keep healing from hurts and habitual sin:** develop good habits and keep preparing yourself.
 2. **Learn how to love:** No single person should live alone; live with a roommate and learn to get along with him.
 3. **Serve:** What prevents you from serving and changing the world?
 4. **Be Discipled:** Find someone who knows more and let them help you grow.
 5. **Disciple someone:** Spend time explaining God's Word to them.
- A. Maybe you always dreamed of getting married and you don't know if that will happen to you one day. To singles God says this:
- Is. 56:4-5 "The Lord says to such a man, "If you honor me by observing the Sabbath and if you do what pleases me and faithfully keep my covenant, *s then your name will be remembered in my Temple and among my people longer than if you had sons and daughters. You will never be forgotten.*"**
- B. God gives something more valuable than having sons and daughters, the only family in heaven are our brothers and sisters; when I get to heaven my wife and daughters will be my sisters forever.
- C. Don't waste your singleness; you don't lose if you stay single, you lose if you waste your singleness. There is no better time than to put all talent, gift, possessions, relationships and all occupations, abilities, take all these and give it to the Lord and tell Him: **I will live a total devotion for you, with everything I have to glorify You.**

V. THE ROLE OF THE CHURCH FAMILY

- A. In Christ, marriage is not something that gives us meaning, fulfillment or fulfillment, but one of the many ways of living sacrificially in service to God. **This truth should inform our perceptions and conversations about singleness.** Jesus was single, Paul, Daniel and many others were full as single and did not live with the anxiety of never having married.
- B. As a church we embrace singles and include them as part of the community especially those over 30, they need to find support in the face of the challenges inherent in singleness. Otherwise they may feel that their doubts and struggles have no place in the church which could contribute to resenting them and turning away from the church and, in the worst cases, seeking what the secular world has to offer.
- Psal. 68:6 "God sets the solitary in families; He brings out those who are bound into prosperity; But the rebellious dwell in a dry land"**

VI. REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. Do you see singleness as a gift or a failure? Explain
2. What do you think that the purpose of singleness and marriage is the same?
3. How are you supporting singles in our community?