

When Church Becomes Messy: First Corinthians

12 – MARRIAGE & SINGLENESS – PART 2 (1 CORINTHIANS 7:17-40)

I. God's Calling (1 Corinthians 7:17-24)

A. The General Principle (1 Corinthians 7:17)

- Paul called them to live out their lives where God has placed them.

B. The Principle Applied (1 Corinthians 7:18)

- Whether circumcised or not, you are to remain as you are.

C. The Real Issue (1 Corinthians 7:19)

- The issue is not external actions, but obedience to God.

D. The Principle Restated (1 Corinthians 7:20)

- Paul stresses that they are to remain where God has placed them.

E. Another Application (1 Corinthians 7:21-22)

- A Christian's vocational situation is a matter of little consequence.

F. The Reality (1 Corinthians 7:23)

- Paul stresses that fact that they had been bought by Christ.

G. The Principle Restated Again (1 Corinthians 7:24)

- Again, Paul stresses that they should be content with where God has placed them.

II. Singleness and Ministry (1 Corinthians 7:25-38)

A. Paul's Directive (1 Corinthians 7:25)

- Paul gives instruction from his perspective and not from the Lord directly.

B. Remain As You Are (1 Corinthians 7:26-27)

- Because of the nature of the times, they are to remain as they are.

C. Marriage Is not A Sin (1 Corinthians 7:28)

- Those who marry do not commit sin.

D. Live For The Eternal (1 Corinthians 7:29-31)

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- Whether single or married, they should not focus on the temporal.

E. A Difference Of Focus (1 Corinthians 7:32-35)

- A single person can focus on serving the Lord.
- A married person has their focus on their spouse.
- Paul's instructions are given to help our service.

F. Instructions For Singles (1 Corinthians 7:36-38)

- It is okay to marry or remain single.
- The person wishing to remain single has done the right thing also.

III. Remarriage and Widows (1 Corinthians 7:39-40)

A. The Nature Of The Marriage Bond (1 Corinthians 7:39a)

- Marriage is a lifelong contract or covenant between husband and wife.

B. The Issue Of Remarriage (1 Corinthians 7:39b)

- A widow is free to remarry.
- They can only marry a believer.

C. The Wish To Remain Single (1 Corinthians 7:40)

- It is okay for a widow to remain single.