

Marriage and Singleness Together: A Study of 1 Corinthians

Pastor Tim Allen

Key Truth: We glorify God in our bodies when we exercise Scriptural Self-Control.

The Corinthians apparently wanted to establish a “no touching” policy (v. 1) to safeguard their purity. Paul doesn’t disagree, but offers an alternative: theological reasons for looking at Marriage and Singleness themselves as a safeguard to Self-Control. So, Paul teaches about the goodness of both Marriage and Singleness as two means of exercising self-control, and thus helping the Corinthians Glorify God.

DISCUSS

Read 1 Corinthians 7:1-9 and discuss with the group a statement or concept that stood out to you or impacted you in the sermon on **Marriage and Singleness**.

DIG IN

1. Marriage is a Good Safeguard for Self-Control. (vv. 1-5)

Of course, we know that marriage does not guarantee self-control, but it does have advantages in helping to safe-guard against sexual immorality. One of those advantages is the Scriptural recognition of mutual marital rights. In what ways is this both healthy for the marriage relationship and effective in safeguarding self-control?

Read v. 4: In what ways does this truth rub against the grain of 21st Century thinking? In what ways can this be put into practice in a Christian marriage?

Read v. 5: How does this verse support the notion that husband and wife have a mutual responsibility to support one another’s spiritual health? What are some specific ways that can be carried out in the context of marriage?

2. Singleness is a Good Model for Self-Control . (vv. 6-9)

In verse 6, Paul says, “Now as a concession, not a command...” What is this “concession?” In your own words, describe his instruction in these verses.

Imitating the life of a godly mentor is one way to grow in sanctification. In what ways could this help a single person maintain a life of Scriptural self-control?

In what ways is Singleness a gift (v. 7)? What are some practical ways a married person or couple can recognize this gift in the single person and support it?

DO

The thrust of this passage of Scripture is that both Marriage and Singleness are Good in the right, God-given contexts. How will you demonstrate this truth in the week to come?