

1st Corinthians 7:25-40

Singleness is preferable but not required—7:25-28

- 1) Jesus' mercy had made Paul trustworthy, and thus his advice should be heard—7:25
- 2) Time of distress—7:26-28 ²⁶ *I conclude therefore that this (being a virgin or unmarried) is good because of the present crisis—that it is good for a person to remain as he is.*
 - a) Married or engaged/betrothed: ²⁷ *Are you bound to a wife? Do not seek to be released.*
 - b) Single or divorced: *Are you released from a wife? Do not seek a wife.*
 - i) Men: ²⁸ *But even if you (a man) should marry, you have not sinned;*
 - ii) Women: *and if the virgin should marry, she has not sinned.*
 - iii) *But such as these will have trouble in the flesh, but I am trying to spare you^{pl}.*

Paul's reasons for singleness—7:29-35

- 1) Time is short—7:29-31 ²⁹ *... the time has been limited (cf. Romans 13:11), so that from now on ...*
 - a) To whom is he speaking?
 - i) *those who have wives should be as those who have none,*
 - ii) ³⁰ *and those who weep, as though they did not weep;*
 - iii) *and those who rejoice, as though they did not rejoice;*
 - iv) *and those who do business as those who possess nothing;*
 - v) ³¹ *and those who deal with this world as not making full use of it;*
 - b) Why? *for the form of this world is passing away.*
- 2) Having fewer distractions is a good thing (rooted in wisdom)—7:32-34
 - a) To the men—7:32-33 ³² *But I want you^{pl} to be free from concern.*
 - i) *The unmarried man ...*
 - ii) ³³ *but the married man ...*
 - b) To the women—7:34 ³⁴ *There is also a division for a wife and a virgin.*
 - i) *The unmarried woman ...*
 - ii) *But she who is married ...*
- 3) **Principle:** be devoted to God in an undistracted manner—7:35

But marriage is not sinful—7:36-40

- 1) Application to a father-daughter relationship—7:36-38 (some see this as referring to engaged couples)
 - a) Freedom to marry—7:36
 - b) Freedom to not marry, regardless of pressure from others—7:37
 - c) Principle—7:38 ³⁸ *So then, the one who gives in marriage does well, but the one who does not give in marriage does better.*
- 2) Application to the widows—7:39-40
 - a) cf. 7:8; 1st Timothy 5:11-15