

Message Notes

The idolatry of marriage or singleness

Scripture Passages

(taken from the New International Version)

A Special Prayer

Introduction - "Dan was the Man!"

A Biblical Theology of Sex

Genesis 1
Genesis 2
Genesis 3
Ezekiel 16
Ephesians 5
Revelation 21

FOUR BIG QUESTIONS ABOUT SINGLENESS & MARRIAGE

1. Is Marriage a Good Thing?

1 Corinthians 7:1b
Genesis 2:18

2. Is Paul Forbidding Marriage?

1 Corinthians 7:2

3. How can Sex in Marriage be to the Glorify of God?

- a. Sex as a means of ministry - 1 Cor 7:3-4
- b. The sin of deprivation - 1 Cor 7:5a
- c. The enemy of our souls will use sexual desire against us! - 1 Cor 7:5b

4. If only I could get married, that would solve my problems! Right?

- a. Should I even get married? - 1 Cor 7:25-28
- b. Do you live for the gospel now? Wherever you go, there you are! - 1 Cor 7:29-31
- c. Do you really know what you are getting yourself into? - 1 Cor 7:32-35
- d. What if I think I have the gift of singleness? 1 Cor 7:36-38

The Faulty Question - "Why would God make sex so positively wonderful, mysterious, and intimate, command me to wait for marriage, not give me a spouse, and then make me so incredibly weak!"

Gospel Application - Will you commit to repenting from the idolatry of marriage or singleness and allow Jesus Christ to be your God?

1 Corinthians 7:1-5, 25-38

¹Now for the matters you wrote about: It is good for a man not to marry. ²But since there is so much immorality, each man should have his own wife, and each woman her own husband. ³The husband should fulfill his marital duty to his wife, and likewise the wife to her husband. ⁴The wife's body does not belong to her alone but also to her husband. In the same way, the husband's body does not belong to him alone but also to his wife. ⁵Do not deprive each other except by mutual consent and for a time, so that you may devote yourselves to prayer. Then come together again so that Satan will not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.

²⁵Now about virgins: I have no command from the Lord, but I give a judgment as one who by the Lord's mercy is trustworthy. ²⁶Because of the present crisis, I think that it is good for you to remain as you are. ²⁷Are you married? Do not seek a divorce. Are you unmarried? Do not look for a wife. ²⁸But if you do marry, you have not sinned; and if a virgin marries, she has not sinned. But those who marry will face many troubles in this life, and I want to spare you this.

²⁹What I mean, brothers, is that the time is short. From now on those who have wives should live as if they had none; ³⁰those who mourn, as if they did not; those who are happy, as if they were not; those who buy something, as if it were not theirs to keep; ³¹those who use the things of the world, as if not engrossed in them. For this world in its present form is passing away.

³²I would like you to be free from concern. An unmarried man is concerned about the Lord's affairs—how he can please the Lord. ³³But a married man is concerned about the affairs of this world—how he can please his wife—³⁴and his interests are divided. An unmarried woman or virgin is concerned about the Lord's affairs: Her aim is to be devoted to the Lord in both body and spirit. But a married woman is concerned about the affairs of this world—how she can please her husband. ³⁵I am saying this for your own good, not to restrict you, but that you may live in a right way in undivided devotion to the Lord.

³⁶If anyone thinks he is acting improperly toward the virgin he is engaged to, and if she is getting along in years and he feels he ought to marry, he should do as he wants. He is not sinning. They should get married. ³⁷But the man who has settled the matter in his own mind, who is under no compulsion but has control over his own will, and who has made up his mind not to marry the virgin—this man also does the right thing. ³⁸So then, he who marries the virgin does right, but he who does not marry her does even better.

Genesis 2:18

The LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him."

HOLY SEX

it's just

SEX

The Difficult Ride of the Christian Life



Legalism

Slippery Slope

License



irreligion



What the boombox is screaming to us:

1. Sex is bad and dirty
2. Sex is everything (need to be getting a lot!)
3. What's the big deal?
4. Sex = Intimacy
5. We joke about sex, but don't talk about it
6. Sex defines me

religion



What “religion” is screaming to us:

1. Just don't have sex.

2. If you're having sex, S-T-O-P. New word: I-T.

3. Parent/pastor: Because I said so.

4. I'm okay because I don't struggle with _____.

5. Worship your purity.

6. To be a Christian means you do *this*, not *that*.

legalism
religion

GOSPEL

relativism
irreligion

A Biblical Theology of Sex

A Biblical Theology of Sex

Genesis 1

¹In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

A Biblical Theology of Sex

Genesis 1

Genesis 2

¹⁸The LORD God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him.”

A Biblical Theology of Sex

Genesis 1

Genesis 2

¹⁸The LORD God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him.”

²⁴For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh.

A Biblical Theology of Sex

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Genesis 2

¹⁸The LORD God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him.”

²⁴For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh.

²⁵The man and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame.

A Biblical Theology of Sex

Genesis 1

Genesis 2

Genesis 3

^{16b}“Your desire will be for your husband,
and he will rule over you.”

A Biblical Theology of Sex

Genesis 1

Genesis 2

Genesis 3

Ezekiel 16

⁸Later I passed by, and when I looked at you and saw that you were old enough for love, I spread the corner of my garment over you and covered your nakedness. I gave you my solemn oath and entered into a covenant with you, declares the Sovereign LORD, and you became mine.

A Biblical Theology of Sex

Ephesians 5

²²Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands as you do to the Lord. ²³For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior....

²⁵Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her...

A Biblical Theology of Sex

Ephesians 5

³¹“For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.” ³²This is a profound mystery – but I am talking about Christ and the church.

A Biblical Theology of Sex

Ephesians 5 Revelation 21

¹Then I saw “a new heaven and a new earth,” for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. ²I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. ³And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God.

Gospel Sexuality

God created sex
to be received as a gift
and experienced at his direction
for ever-increasing intimacy and benefit.

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**AS AN ILLUSTRATION OF HIS
RELATIONSHIP WITH US**

A person is sitting on wooden steps, wearing blue jeans and a pink long-sleeved top. The person's hands are resting on their knees. The background is a blurred outdoor setting. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

**IF GOD LOVES ME
WHY AM I NOT
MARRIED?**

1 Corinthians 7:1

¹Now for the matters you wrote about:
It is good for a man not to marry.

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**Singleness to the
Glory of God**

4



BIG
Questions

1. Is marriage a good thing?



1 Corinthians 7:1

¹Now for the matters you wrote about:
It is good for a man not to marry.

Two Questions Paul raises:

1. Should we live a life of ascetism?

1 Corinthians 7:1

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Do not touch



Two Questions Paul raises:

2. Who's right here? Paul or God?

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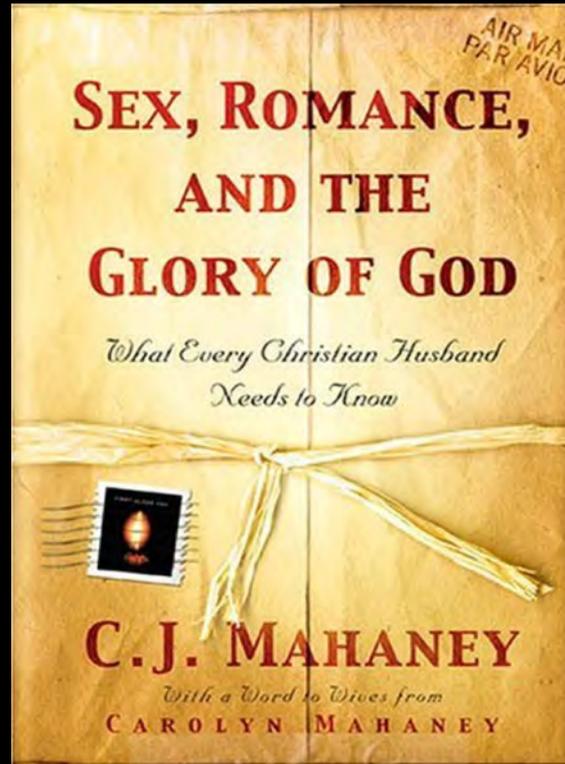
2. Is Paul forbidding marriage?



1 Corinthians 7:2

²But since there is so much immorality, each man should have his own wife, and each woman her own husband.

3. How can Sex in Marriage be to the Glory of God?



a. Sex as a means of ministry in marriage

1 Corinthians 7:3-4

³The husband should fulfill his marital duty to his wife, and likewise the wife to her husband. ⁴The wife's body does not belong to her alone but also to her husband. In the same way, the husband's body does not belong to him alone but also to his wife.

b. The sin of deprivation

1 Corinthians 7:5a

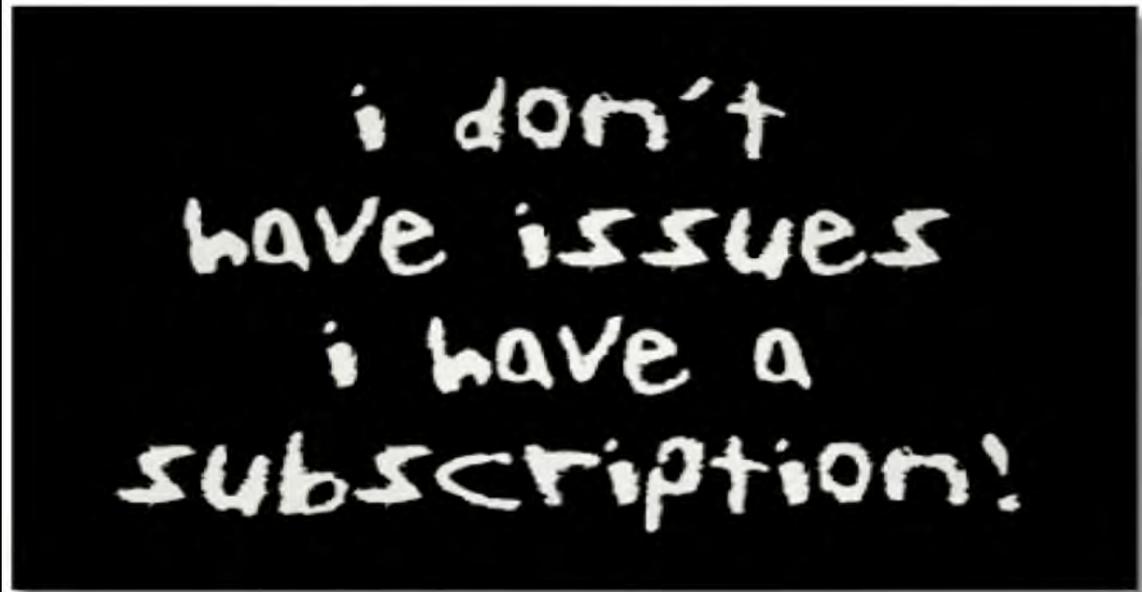
⁵Do not deprive each other except by mutual consent and for a time, so that you may devote yourselves to prayer.

**c. The enemy of our souls will use
sexual desire against us!**

1 Corinthians 7:5b

Then come together again so that Satan will not tempt you
because of your lack of self-control.

4. If only I could get married, that would solve my problems! Right?



i don't
have issues
i have a
subscription!

A dirt road winding through a forest with tall trees and dry grass.

**Man's nature, so to speak, is
a perpetual factory of idols.**

John Calvin



IDOL FACTORY

One of the assumptions many single adults make is that they experience more of a sense of loneliness than a married person does. In one sense that is very true. Every night I go home to my wife and I climb into the same bed with her. The single adult does not have that level of companionship.

But I think the single person ought to be aware of the fact that there is a sense of loneliness in living in a fallen world. That loneliness is shared by *everyone* who is honest.”

~ Larry Crabb, *We Don't Live in a Pain-Free World*, in Single Adult Ministry, compiled by Jerry Jones (Colorado Springs: NavPress, 1991), page 232.



a. Should I even get married?

1 Corinthians 7:7

I wish that all of you were as I am.
But each of you has your own gift from God;
one has this gift, another has that.

a. Should I even get married?

1 Corinthians 7:25-28

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**b. Do you live for the gospel now?
Wherever you go, there you are!**

1 Corinthians 7:29-31

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c. Do you really know what you are getting yourself into?

1 Corinthians 7:32-35

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**Instead of
"Single" as a
status.....**

**I prefer
"Independently
Owned and
Operated"**



LET'S GET DOWN

“Why would God make sex so positively wonderful, mysterious, and intimate, command me to wait for marriage, not give me a spouse, and then make me so incredibly weak!”

Gospel Application

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Will you commit to repenting from the idolatry of marriage or singleness,

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Will you commit to repenting from the idolatry of marriage or singleness, be content with what God has given you and allow Jesus Christ to be your Savior?