

# **Chapter 16**

## **CHRISTIAN FAMILY 6**

### **CHRISTIAN SINGLENESS**

#### ***1 Corinthians 7***

**I wish everyone could get along without marrying, just as I do. But we are not all the same. God gives some the gift of marriage, and to others he gives the gift of singleness. (1 Corinthians 7:7-8 New Living Translation.)**

#### **INTRODUCTION:**

Singleness can and should be seen as a gift from God. If singleness is in fact a gift, what should be the purpose or intent of that gift? Society, and even at times the church, treat singleness as a disease or a curse. Being single is seen as something that needs to be fixed. Perhaps singleness is a gift from God for a season, a stage in life that has purpose and value. A person can be whole and be single. A single person is capable of being complete and of being able to stand on their own. A single person should not just be someone waiting for another someone to come and make them a "whole person." With this concept in mind there will be a feeling of constantly being on the edge and a feeling of being unfulfilled. Being single can be an opportunity to show the "personal-ness" of Christ. If, as a single person you are only waiting until you get married for "life to begin," you will always be trying to catch up. A single person should live in the present and for the present, rather than always waiting for tomorrow. (Matthew 19:3-12; 1 Corinthians 7)

- I. In Matthew 19:3-12, Jesus gives us some reasons why some people might be unmarried.
  - A. Because they were born that way (as eunuchs or who were castrated).
  - B. Because of circumstances beyond their present control. This may be because of the death of a partner, a divorce, or that they have never been married at this time in their life.
  - C. Because of choice on the part of the single person. This would be a decision to remain celibate for a specific reason (religious or otherwise). It may be that this would be for life or for a season of time.

As a single you may feel that you may have no choice in being single, but you do have a choice in your attitude towards it. You can choose to have a positive acceptance rather than negative resignation. God is not taken by surprise by an individual's singleness. Accept life as worth living now, not just "on hold" for the future. Avoid playing the "ain't it awful" game.

- II. Be careful as a single person not to let the culture you live in squeeze you into its mould. Look first to the truths and values that are declared in the Word of God.

**Live life, then, with a due sense of responsibility, not as men who do not know the meaning of life but as those who do. Make the best use of your time, despite all the evils of these days. Don't be vague but grasp firmly what you know to be the will of the Lord. Ephesians 5:15-17 JB Phillips**

- III. Building a close relationship with Christ is always important. A single person has the potential to focus more on building this relationship. As a single person, become a friend of God. It is also important, at this time in life, to develop relationships with mature Christians, to listen and learn from them.
- IV. Do not become lazy, mentally, physically, emotionally, socially, or spiritually. Fill your life with verbs (ACTIONS). Do not just sit around and wait for things to happen to you, or for people to do for you, or for people to come into your life.  
  
Make things happen. Take the initiative to be busy in constructive enjoyable activity. Use your time to develop opportunities for study and growth, either career, spiritual, or other. Is there something that you have always wanted to do or to learn? Now may be the time to do it!
- V. Concentrate on “being” the right person, rather than “looking for” the right person. Develop into the person, that the person you want to marry will want to marry.
- VI. As a single person, it is important to learn to deal with the perceived and felt challenges of singleness. This will include the emotional and economic, as well as the sexual challenges of being a single person. Live in reality. You may experience loneliness. You may have times of economic crisis.
- VII. Know and accept your body and its normal physical and emotional needs. It is not a sin to have sexual feelings (these come from God). The sin is in giving in to the feelings in an inappropriate way. As a single person, learn how to have non-sexual friendships with members of the opposite sex. Don’t fantasize about sex. Avoid doubtful relationships. Rather build healthy relationships with others, both male and female. Learn to be a friend and a servant to others. (Psalm 139:13-18)
- VIII. Finally, commit your hopes, plans, and dreams to the Lord and trust Him for the desires of your heart.

*Trust in the LORD and do good; dwell in the land and enjoy safe pasture. Delight yourself in the LORD and he will give you the desires of your heart. Commit your way to the LORD; trust in him and he will do this: He will make your righteousness shine like the dawn, the justice of your cause like the noonday sun. Be still before the LORD and wait patiently for him; do not fret when men succeed in their ways, when they carry out their wicked schemes. (Psalms 37:3-7)*

### **QUESTIONS FOR STUDY AND DISCUSSION**

#### *Chapter 16 Christian Family 6: Christian Singleness*

- 1. Jesus and Paul both talk about the gift (state) of singleness being a time that as a single person you can give more of yourself and your time into the Kingdom of God. How are some of the ways that you can see this being not only true but effective?
- 2. How are some ways that as a single person one can develop the ability to “be” the right person rather than only or always “looking for” the right person?