

Growth Group Questions
“To Stay Single Or To Marry”
1 Corinthians 7:7-9, 25-40
Messy Church 13
Week of April 18, 2010



1. Paul never uses the word in our teaching passage, but can't you see *contentment* is central in all that he teaches in 1 Corinthians 7.7-9, 25-40?

- a. Take a minute and think back on the seasons of your life. Can you remember a time when you felt particularly content? What situations or experiences contributed to those feelings?
- b. Consider Philippians 4.12-13. How might you be more content in the situations of life you find yourself in today?
- c. What's the difference between being content and being apathetic? Is contentment an excuse for inaction, half-heartedness?
- d. What content-action might you take to enhance your singleness or married state?

2. We talked Sunday about the advantages of being married, and the advantages of being single. Consider other advantages *and* some difficulties of each:

advantages	<u>single</u>	disadvantages	advantages	<u>married</u>	disadvantages
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Using the above lists: if you're single, pray for those who are married, if you are married, pray for those who are single.

3. As we consider important life decisions, do we try to make them on our own? What are some of the dangers of feeling we have an inside track on God's plans? Read Proverbs 15.22. Share about how God's will for you might be discovered through the counsel of other wise Christians.

4. Are we sometimes over-anxious about discovering the single "right" course of God's will when several paths may be "good"? Might not the "good" remain "good," whether or not an even "better" path for me shows up? One path may be "happier," 1 Corinthians 7.40, but the other need not be "sin," 1 Corinthians 7.36.

Message Notes

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1. Some Solid Theology

a. Marriage is Good!

Genesis 2.18-25, Hebrews 13.4, Ephesians 5.21-33, 1 Timothy 4.1-3, Proverbs 5.18, Song of Songs.

b. Singleness is Good! Consider Paul, and Jesus!

1 Corinthians 7.7-8, 26, 32-25, 39-40, Proverbs 19.13, 27.15-16

Both singleness and marriage are equally honorable

2. Think Realistically, Get Counsel: Is This The Right Season To Get Married?

a. She/He's THE One for me

1 Corinthians 7.8-9

b. Is this the season to remain single or get married?

* "present crisis"

1 Corinthians 7.26-31

* advantages of staying single

1 Corinthians 7.32-35

* advantages of getting married

• it's about prayerful, reasonable reflection, not sin

1 Corinthians 7.36-40