

STUDY NOTES

BLUEPRINTS FOR LIFE

a series at New City Church

www.newcityphx.com/sermons

The following content is based on the message “Don’t Waste Your Singleness” on 8/26/18 at New City Church in Phoenix, AZ. The following is not meant to be a full synopsis but rather a brief look at the main ideas. To use this Study Guide effectively you must listen to the message found at <http://newcityphx.com/sermons/>.

Leaders using these study notes for group study and reflection should read the Biblical text thoroughly before beginning, using this resource as assistance and not relying solely on this material for insight. We encourage all leaders to pray and ask the Spirit for revelation as they lead their respective community groups.

PRAYER

Pray and ask God to lead the discussion as everyone gets to share.

SCRIPTURE: 1 CORINTHIANS 7:1-2; 6-7

COUNTER-CULTURAL LIVING

In the context of the Corinthian church, some people elevated marriage to an idol by acting as if people had to be married to have value. Other people eliminated the idea of marriage and just slept with whomever they wanted. The apostle—who was single—called the church to live counter-culturally from these two ways of living. To those who were single, he gave full dignity, but told them to control their sexual passions or get married. On the flip side, to those who were married, he said that marriage was not the key to wholeness and happiness.

- *How have you seen the current Church fall into either of these marriage extremes?*
- *For the married or single person, why do you think marriage isn’t the key to wholeness or happiness?*

GOOD TO BE SINGLE?

The writer of this passage (who also likens the marriage relationship to the relationship between Jesus and the church) was single himself. He called the ability

to be single like a spiritual gift. One can be single and fully complete. However, the single person shouldn’t seek out sexual activity. Sex is designed for the marriage relationship.

- *Why is important for single people to live in the sexual ethic that God designed? (Married people have different perspective and should answer this question as well.)*
- *For the single person, how does the way that Paul describes singleness speak to you?*

FOCUS ON CHRIST

Read 1 Corinthians 7:32-35. Marriage is not wrong, but it shouldn’t be treated like the ultimate goal. The ultimate goal is living like Jesus—loving Him and serving others. Someone who is single can focus on that with undivided attention.

- *Married people, how did you have more time to serve when you were single? How can you still make time to do so?*
- *Single people, how is the Holy Spirit speaking to you to serve others?*

IN COMMUNITY TOGETHER

Prominent pastor, Tim Keller, says this about the importance of community involving both single and married people together:

“Christians will fall prey to the world’s views of sex unless we create a community, an alternative city. In this alternative city, singles enjoy their kingdom mission and practice abstinence joyfully. They live in community with Christian families, who do not make an idol out of family or make singles feel abnormal. One of the reasons it is hard to practice the discipline of sex-free romantic involvement is that we don’t have a sufficiently large community of people creating this alternative city.”

- *Single people, what would you hope to see from married couples/families? What can you offer to this community described above?*
- *Married people, what would you hope to see from single people? What can you offer to this community described above?*
- *Pray for each other to live with love for all people.*