

The Sermon Connection

Connecting Sunday's Teaching to Everyday Living

Volume 5 Issue 8



The Sermon Connection is a weekly handout to help you apply Sunday's sermon content to your everyday life. It is designed to give you additional insights and practical tools for applying the teaching throughout the week.

The application, reflection and connection questions may also serve as a springboard for discussion in your small group, your family time, or in one-on-one conversations.

GODLY RELATIONSHIPS

Single, Saved and Satisfied

1 Corinthians 7:6-9
Rick Toburen
February 24, 2019

The month of February is a time when we think about relationships. With Valentine's Day right in the middle of the month, we are bombarded with ads about how to best take care of our "valentine." Rick continued Destiny's series for the month of February which looks at Godly Relationships. This series is based on 1 Corinthians 7. It is interesting to note that The Apostle Paul addresses the four possible relationship statuses: married, divorced, single and widowed. In other words, no matter where you are at today relative to having a "valentine," the Bible speaks to it. And we know that when the Bible speaks to an issue it brings great wisdom.

Today's message was titled "Single, Saved and Satisfied." Rick introduced it by showing what we know about Paul and his relational status. He then discussed different gifts related to being single versus being married. This is an important message for The Church to hear and one that is rarely taught. He pointed out that singles have great potential to serve the Lord in ways that those who are married cannot.

Rick then went on to ask "If I were the enemy, who would I attack in the church? Certainly church leadership like the elders, pastors and anyone who is in some sort of leadership. But the other person I believe would be under attack is the single person. Why? Because according to 1 Corinthians 7, they can be totally devoted to our Lord." He listed three ways that Paul considers: the single's moral purity, the single's freedom to serve the Lord and the single's ability to be spontaneous.

Finally, Rick gave eight suggestions for singles that were drawn from today's text. They were:

- Avoid trading marital distractions for others.
- Say "yes" to the spontaneous.
- Practice selflessness while you're still alone.
- Do radical, time-consuming things for God.
- Spend time with married people.
- Spend time with not-yet-married people.
- Find a fiancé on the front lines.
- While you wait, hope in Jesus more than marriage.

Singles are a part of the body of believers. For those who are single, understand the unique position that you are in – study 1 Corinthians 7 carefully and embrace what God has for you at this time in your life. For those who are not single, make sure to include singles in your everyday life.

E-CHECK: Experiencing Christ-Like Relationships

READING AND REFLECTION:

Read I Corinthians 7:8. The Bible gives those who are single the choice to remain single or to remarry. Which choice does Paul advocate?

Read I Corinthians 7:32-35. Why does Paul recommend remaining single if you are single?

Read I Corinthians 7:9, 39. Does the Bible provide any scenario where it is acceptable/advisable for a Christian to marry a non-Christian?

PERSONAL APPLICATION:

For the single person, do you see any other areas that the enemy might attack that were not mentioned in the message?

Several considerations were given to the single person. Do you have any others that should be discussed?

COMMUNITY CONNECTION:

Parents: take the time this week to work through this message in an age appropriate way with your children.

If you are single, seek out a small group that you can be connected with. If your small group does not have any singles in it, reach out and invite!

KEY POINT:

If you are single in the Lord, you need to determine before the Lord whether you have the gift of singleness, the gift of marriage, or you're waiting on the gift of marriage.

While you are single or waiting, you need to be aware that the enemy has a big target on your heart and will do all he can to make you ineffective for the Kingdom. Please be aware of his schemes and take appropriate action.

RESOURCES:

[One-Year New Testament Bible](#) (Available at the Information Table on Sunday mornings)

Tony Evans "Kingdom Single"

Marshall Segal "Not Yet Married"