



PREACHING THE CROSS
God's Remedy for a Troubled Church

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF LAKE ORION

A Singular Devotion to God

Sunday, August 21, 2016

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TEXT: 1 Corinthians 7:25–40

Although in this passage, Paul seems to be agreeing with the slogan, “*It is good for a man not to marry,*” his agreement is more practical in nature than theological.

I. PAUL’S PREFERENCE FOR SINGLENESS, 7:25-35

A. Paul Prefers Singleness Because of an Impending Time of Distress, 7:26-28.

1. What Is this Distress?

- a. It is a *present distress* (NASB), a *present crisis* (NIV), an *impending crisis* (NET), that the Corinthians were facing.
 - (1) Possibly the “present distress” they were experiencing within the community in which many were “weak and sick, and a number have fallen asleep,” (1 Cor. 11:30).
 - (2) Possibly the “present distress” that was the common experience of those who believe—the experience of suffering that the church was undergoing.
- b. It is a *distress* the church is not presently experiencing in the United States.

Paul’s Point: *In light of the troubles believers are already experiencing, who needs the additional burden of marriage as well?*

2. Why not Marry?

Persecution is difficult for a single person, but multiplied for one who is married.

B. Paul Prefers Singleness Because of the Imminent Return of Christ, 7:29–31.

For Paul, the End Has Already Begun, 7:29-31.

1. The Concept of the “Last Days”

- a. An *Imminent Rapture*** is one that could occur at any moment, but that might not occur for a long time.
- b. An *Immediate Rapture*** is one that is almost certain to happen very soon.

2. The Truth About the Last Days

- a. Truth one: We are presently in it,** Heb.1:1-2; 9:26; 1 Cor 10:11.
- b. Truth two: We are presently experiencing it,** 1 Tim. 4:1-2; 2 Tim. 3:1-5; 1 John 2:18.

C. Paul Prefers Singleness Because of the Opportunity for Undistracted Service for Christ, 7:32–35.

II. PAUL’S PERMISSION FOR MARRIAGE, 7:36-40

A. An Evaluation of Paul’s Position on Singleness

- 1. Singleness is Not a Command from the Lord but Paul’s Trustworthy Opinion, 7:25**
- 2. Singleness Is What Paul Prefers Due to a Present Situation, 7:26**
- 3. Singleness is Driven By Paul’s Genuine Concern for the Corinthians, 7:28**
- 4. Singleness is for the Corinthians’ Benefit, 7:35**

B. A Concession to Marry, 7:36-40