

# The Bachelor or Being Single in a Married World

## Series: Relationship Realities: Getting Real About Marriage

1 Corinthians 7:7-9 (NIV)

*I wish that all men were as I am. But each man has his own gift from God; one has this gift, another has that.*

<sup>8</sup>Now to the unmarried and the widows I say: It is good for them to stay unmarried, as I am. <sup>9</sup>But if they cannot control themselves, they should marry, for it is better to marry than to burn with passion.

1 Corinthians 7:32-34 (NIV)

*I would like you to be free from concern. An unmarried man is concerned about the Lord's affairs--how he can please the Lord. <sup>33</sup>But a married man is concerned about the affairs of this world--how he can please his wife-- <sup>34</sup>and his interests are divided. An unmarried woman or virgin is concerned about the Lord's affairs: Her aim is to be devoted to the Lord in both body and spirit. But a married woman is concerned about the affairs of this world--how she can please her husband.*

### 1. BEING SINGLE IS A GIFT FROM GOD.

v. 7 "...But each man has his own gift from God..."

- Sometimes singleness is a gift from God.
- Singleness does not equal incompleteness.
- Being single forces you to find your completeness in God.

### 2. BEING SINGLE REQUIRES SELF CONTROL.

v. 9 "But if they cannot control themselves, they should marry, for it is better to marry than to burn with passion."

- While marriage is not for everyone, neither is being single.

Matthew 19:10-12 (MsgB)

*Jesus' disciples objected, "If those are the terms of marriage, we're stuck. Why get married?"*

<sup>11</sup>But Jesus said, "Not everyone is mature enough to live a married life. It requires a certain aptitude and grace. Marriage isn't for everyone. <sup>12</sup>Some, from birth seemingly, never give marriage a thought. Others never get asked—or accepted. And some decide not to get married for kingdom reasons. But if you're capable of growing into the largeness of marriage, do it."

- Christian singles make a commitment to sexual abstinence.
- Being single requires self control in other areas as well.
  - Dating
  - Finances
  - Career

### 3. BEING SINGLE HAS UNIQUE ADVANTAGES

v. 32 "...An unmarried man is concerned about the Lord's affairs--how he can please the Lord."

v. 34 "...An unmarried woman or virgin is concerned about the Lord's affairs: Her aim is to be devoted to the Lord in both body and spirit."

- Being single can allow you to concentrate on fewer concerns.
- Being single can give you more opportunity to focus on God.
- Being single can allow you to focus on your ministry.

If you are not married:

- Determine whether or not this is a temporary situation or a life calling.
- Find out if God has unique plans for you that are enhanced by your singleness.
- Understand the completeness you have in God.