

1 CORINTHIANS  
**CALLED OUT**  
SMALL GROUP CURRICULUM



Sermon: **Marriage, Singleness and Life in Light of the Return of Christ (1 Cor. 7:25-31)**

Date: **September 25, 2016**

As humans, we tend to allow our present, temporal circumstances to dictate how we live our everyday lives. We are constantly tempted to let petty things and worldly matters control us. In this week's study, we will learn that all of the present situations and trivial things of this world that seem significant to us are really insignificant compared to the second coming of Jesus Christ. While things like possessions, singleness, and marriage do have a degree of value and significance to them, they are not nearly as significant and important as the second coming of Jesus Christ. We must learn to live for *that* day in the here and now.

What you need for this study: Bible, Notebook, Pen

**Individual Bible Study**

1. Please read 1 Corinthians 7:25-31 and ensure that you've listened to Sunday's sermon.
  - a. What does Paul mean in verse 25 when he writes, "I have no command from the Lord"? What do we mean when we say that all of the Bible is verbally *inspired* and *inerrant*? Does that include this passage?
  - b. How is Paul's Holy Spirit-inspired pastoral advice different from a direct command such as 'Do not commit adultery' or 'Do not divorce'? How does Paul's advice here differ from advice that Pastor Jacob might give?
  - c. What is the true meaning of the word "betrothed" in verse 25 and 28?
  - d. Why should one's virginity be guarded? What are some ways in which parents can play an active role in promoting virtue, fighting defilement and protecting virginity?
  - e. What is the only appropriate context for the expression of human sexuality?
  - f. In verse 26 Paul says that it is good for a man to remain as he is. How can inconsistency in life create chaos? Why might it be wise to avoid necessary change or upheaval? What sorts of things should we try to be consistent with in order to avoid chaos?

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- g. How can those who are married protect against discontentment in their marriages? What are some ways in which they might be tempted to be discontent with their marriage?
  
- h. How can those who are single protect themselves from discontentment in their singleness? What are some signs and dangers of discontentment in singleness? How can parents help their children avoid discontentment with singleness?
  
- i. How does verse 27 provide a necessary balance to the statements about marriage in verses 2 & 9?
  
- j. Paul uses the term “worldly troubles” in verse 28. How is marriage like a pressure cooker? Give any examples that come to mind. How can we help singles within our church to have a realistic view of marriage?
  
- k. How might people be tempted to make more of marriage than they need to (verse 29)? How might people be tempted to make more of mourning, rejoicing, and material possessions than they need to (verse 30)?
  
- l. How does the second coming make our present experiences, worries, and joys pertaining to this world insignificant?

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**Group Discussion Questions**

1. How did the Holy Spirit speak to you through the sermon and the Bible study this week?
2. What are some ways in which inconsistency in life can lead to chaos? Why is it good to remain as you are (v. 26)? What sorts of things should we try to be consistent with in life in order to avoid unnecessary chaos?
3. For those of us who are married, what are some ways we might be tempted to be discontent with our marriage? How can we fight against this and protect ourselves from discontentment within our marriages?
4. For those of us who are single, what are some ways we might be tempted to be discontent with our singleness? How can we fight against this and protect ourselves from discontentment within our marriages? How can parents help their children avoid discontentment with singleness?
5. What are some ways in which marriage is like a pressure cooker (v. 28)? Why is it important that singles in our church have a realistic view of marriage?
6. Why must we constantly remember and long for the second coming of Christ? How does this help us have an eternal perspective when it comes to things like mourning, rejoicing, worldly possessions, singleness, and marriage?