

Sex, Marriage & Singleness

1 Corinthians 7:25-38

The church, as a collective people of God, becomes the Body of Christ. Marriage, in this way, instructs the church in what to look for when the kingdom comes – eternal intimate union. And singleness prepares us for the other piece of the end of time, the age when singleness trumps marriage. Singleness tutors us in our primary, heavenly relationship with one another: sibling in Christ.

~ Lauren Winner

1. In the ancient culture, the societies were centered on families. Do you find this to be true in our society? If so, where and how do you see this? Is this healthy or unhealthy?
2. **Read verses 25-28.** How would you summarize what Paul is saying?
3. What messages are we getting from our society concerning sex, romance, singleness and marriage? How is what Paul is saying different? How is it same?
4. What are some benefits and difficulties to being single? What are some benefits and difficulties to being married?
5. **Read verses 32-35.** What benefits does Paul give for being a single person? How would you respond to Paul's reasoning?
6. **Read verses 36-38.** Paul gives some practical suggestions concerning marriage and singleness. Who should get married? What can the married people/families provide for the singles and the church community?
7. Paul says those who refrain from marriage will do even better. Have you seen this to be true in someone's life? What qualities have you observed from them? In what ways can the singles uniquely bless the church community?