

## **Generation Next: Successfully Single, 1 Cor 7**

The desire of a teaching series on the culture is not to attack the culture but to equip the Church.

- 1) Our beliefs need to agree with the Bible
- 2) Our behavior needs to be BOTH Biblically based and connect us with the people of our culture.

In this series, we've spent time looking at some of the myths that are in our culture in contrast to what the gospel has to say about those issues.

### ***Here's the main point of today's message on being single:***

Myth: An earthly relationship can make you whole.  
Gospel: An eternal relationship with Jesus will make you whole.

***Here's the challenge we face:*** If you pursue relationships Biblically, you will be misunderstood by the culture...AND....you might even be misunderstood within the Church.

1 Corinthians 7 can read like a long, confusing chapter. Notice a pattern. Paul says four times that it is good to remain as you are. In answer to their questions, Paul is affirming both the married and nonmarried. He is telling them that salvation in Christ doesn't require a change in relationship status. Why? Relationships are not primary. Jesus is primary. I see three key points here:

- 1) Your life is primarily defined by your relationship with Jesus.
- 2) Your life is secondarily defined by your relationships with people.
- 3) Your relationship with Jesus should add value to your relationships with people.

One of the reasons why it's hard to be Christian and single today is we will live in a culture that over-values relationships. The habit of over-emphasizing relationships has influenced the Church and to some degree has become part of the Church culture. Subtle, unspoken messages sent by the Church can communicate to the single person – you are not whole until you are married.

### **Affirmations:**

1. You are whole. God cherishes you. God is excited about you and longs for you to know Him deeply.
2. You cannot change your heart by changing your circumstances. If Jesus does not satisfy you as a single person, He will not satisfy you as a married person.
3. Renew your mind with treasures from the Word of God.  
>Phil 4:8-9, 2 Cor 1:20, Col 1:13
4. Pursue your Church family. Romans 12:13 - Pursue hospitality.
5. Recognize the gift of your present circumstances.

## Home Group Discussion Questions:

1. Begin with general reflections and responses to the Sunday message.

2. You may have heard Pastor Karl say something like.... We are trying to accomplish at least two things in this teaching series:

1) Our beliefs need to agree with the Bible

2) Our behavior needs to be Biblically based and connect us with the people of our culture.

- Can you think of anything the Church in the U.S. has done well in terms of being both Biblical and connecting us with the people of our culture? Not so well?

3. The Bible describes the pull of temptation with these words: good, delightful, desirable, Gen 3:6. In what ways do you see this being played out in our culture?

4. Pastor Karl referred to a recurring theme that Paul makes in 1 Corinthians 7:

*I say to the unmarried and the widows: It is good for them to remain as I am. (1 Cor 7:8)*

*Each one of you must live his life in the situation the Lord assigned when God called him. (1 Cor 7:17)*

*Each person should remain in the life situation in which he was called. (1 Cor 7:20)*

*Brothers, each person should remain with God in whatever situation he was called. (1 Cor 7:24)*

*It is fine for a man to remain as he is. (1 Cor 7:26)*

- What do you see in these statements that relates to being a single Christian?

5. If you are not married, can you share some challenges that a single person might face that can be easily overlooked or not understood? Can you also share some blessings that you have received from the Church family that have helped you on your journey?

6. If you are married, what can you as an individual do to extend fellowship to the unmarried people in our Church?