

## Marriage and Singleness Part 3

1 Corinthians 7; Coast Community Church; Earl Miles; 7-31-2022

### 1. Some have the gift of marriage.

One of the gifts Paul has in mind here is the gift of marriage. (1 Corinthians 7:7, 2; Proverbs 18:22)

*Does Paul really want everyone to be single like he is?* (Philippians 4:10-14)

*Why is marriage a blessing?* (Genesis 1-2)

- Companionship (Friendship)
- Cooperation (Help)
- Consummation (Physical Intimacy)
- Children (Fruit of Consummation)

### 2. Some have the gift of celibacy.

The other gift Paul has in mind here is the gift of celibacy. (1 Corinthians 7:7, 9)

The gift of celibacy is the divine enablement to live joyfully and freely without marriage and sexual intimacy. (Matthew 19:10-12; Luke 2:36-37)

*How can we know if we have the gift of celibacy?* (1 Corinthians 7:5, 9; 6:12, 19),

*Why is celibacy a blessing?* (1 Corinthians 7:26-28, 32-35)

- Less trouble in difficult circumstances.
- Less temptation to be distracted from spiritual pursuits.
- More freedom to *uniquely* serve the Lord uninhibited.

### 3. Some have the gift of unanswered prayer.

What about those who aren't married and those who don't have the gift of celibacy? They have the gift of unanswered prayer or the gift of a 'thorn' or the affliction of singleness. (1 Corinthians 7:9; 2 Corinthians 12:7-10; Proverbs 30:21-23; 13:12; 30:15-16; Isaiah 54:1; 2 Corinthians 4:17-18)

Since we do not know God's sovereign will, *How should those who are single without the gift of celibacy seek to be married?*

**Pursue Christ first:** Refuse to make marriage and a spouse your 'god': what you are looking to for help and happiness. (Matthew 6:33; Mark 12:29-31)

**Pursue Christlikeness:** Seek to be the kind of person you would like to marry. (2 Corinthians 5:9; 1 Timothy 4:12)

**Pursue a vocation and serve others:** Make sure your goal in life is not to get married but to love and serve others according to your ‘calling’ (gifts, abilities, desires, burdens, opportunities). (Genesis 2:15; 1 Timothy 5:9-14; Psalm 127:3-5)

**Pursue those who are doing the same:** Seek close friends and a spouse that will support you and encourage you in your pursuit of Christ and Christlikeness. (2 Timothy 2:22; 1 Corinthians 7:39)

**Flee immorality and romance:** Don’t use physical intimacy as a means of ‘wooing’ a spouse or satisfying your lusts outside of marriage. (1 Corinthians 6:18; Song of Solomon 2:7; 1 Timothy 5:2)

**Ask God to provide:** Depend on God to provide a spouse, in His timing, as He sees fit and take the pressure off of yourself. (Matthew 7:7-11)

**Do what is wise and lawful to pursue marriage:** Go fishing where there are fish. It is not wrong to do what you can to find a godly spouse as long as the law does not forbid it. (Proverbs 18:22; Judges 21:19-23; Ruth 3:3-9)

**Employ wise counselors:** Sometimes other people can be helpful in the pursuit of a spouse. (Proverbs 12:15; Exodus 20:12; Proverbs 27:6; 15:31)

**Be careful of your list of requirements for ‘Mr. or Mrs. Right’:** Men should not be looking for ‘Barbie’ and women should not be looking for ‘Superman.’ We should have Biblical and reasonable expectations regarding a potential spouse. (Proverbs 31:30; Psalm 4:3)

**Consider practical matters that may influence timing:** Though it’s a nice thought, you can’t ‘live on love’! We should think through whether we are ready to fulfill all the obligations of marriage. (1 Corinthians 7:26; 1 Timothy 5:8; Exodus 21:20; Ephesians 5:29)

**Wait on God:** We are to resist the temptation to compromise in the pursuit of marriage when time seems to be passing us by. (Psalm 27:13-14; 37:34)

**Trust God for what you need and leave the matter to Him:** God knows what is truly ‘good’ for each of us with regard to marriage and He will give us what we need when we need it. (2 Corinthians 12:9-10; Proverbs 30:23; Proverbs 18:22; Psalm 84:11)