



The Meaning of: Singleness

**A GLORIOUS MESS, Act 2: Part 2**

Lessons from the Church at Corinth

Ed Noble, Lead Pastor

November 2 & 4, 2012

**A GLORIOUS MESS** — It attracts all kinds of us and it's *glorious when we make room!*

MAKE ROOM: Everyone needs to have a *life-giving, wise, God-centric view* of marriage, singleness and divorce...not just the people in those particular situations!

<sup>6</sup> But this I say by way of concession, not of command.

<sup>7</sup> Yet I wish that all men were even as I myself am.

However, each man has his own gift [charisma – fr. Charis...grace] from God, one in this manner, and another in that. <sup>8</sup> But I say to the unmarried and to widows that it is good for them if they remain even as I.

1 Corinthians 7:6–8

► *Good gifts* from a *Good God!*

**THE MEANING OF SINGLENES**

1. The General Rule: Status isn't *destiny or defining!*

- Resist the pressure to *hope in "situations"*.

<sup>32</sup> But I want you to be free from concern. One who is unmarried is concerned about the things of the Lord, how he may please the Lord; <sup>33</sup> but one who is married is concerned about the things of the world, how he may please his wife, <sup>34</sup> and his interests are divided. The woman who is unmarried, and the virgin, is concerned about the things of the Lord, that she may be holy both in body and spirit; but one who is married is concerned about the things of the world, how she may please her husband. <sup>35</sup> This I say for your own benefit; not to put a restraint upon you, but to promote what is appropriate and to secure undistracted devotion to the Lord.

1 Corinthians 7:32–35

2. NOW: *Lean into God's* goodness available NOW.

- We must understand that the greatest danger to our souls might be "*distraction*."

3. "NO" to MARRIED-OCRACY — we deliberately *choose to be in community!*

4. "NO" to MARRIAGE-OLITRY

- Single and married people say: Marriage is good. Singleness is good. *Neither is ultimately good!*
- Our view of marriage: *Not too high. Not too low!*
- Keep in mind we are all WAITING!
- There is no relational status that will "*fill the soul!*"

**HOW TO:** Trust God

- ✓ Let go of control
- ✓ Let go of performing
- ✓ Receive



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2. NOW: \_\_\_\_\_ goodness available \_\_\_\_\_.  
  - We must understand that the greatest danger to our souls might be "\_\_\_\_\_."
3. "NO" to \_\_\_\_\_ — we deliberately \_\_\_\_\_!
4. "NO" to \_\_\_\_\_  
  - Single and married people say: Marriage is good. Singleness is good. \_\_\_\_\_!
  - Our view of marriage: \_\_\_\_\_!
  - Keep in mind we are all \_\_\_\_\_!
  - There is no relational status that will "\_\_\_\_\_!"

**HOW TO:** \_\_\_\_\_

- ✓ Let go of \_\_\_\_\_
- ✓ Let go of \_\_\_\_\_
- ✓ \_\_\_\_\_