

PAUL & SINGLENESS 1 COR. 7:6-9,25-35, 39-40

4 Facts & one man's wish:

1. Jesus & Paul were single!
2. All of us start single.
3. Some, maybe many will end single.
4. All will be single in eternity.
5. Paul **wished** / **desired** that all would be single like Paul was single.

Paul's teaching:

1. Singleness is good.

1 Corinthians 7:6 But I speak this by permission, and not of commandment. 1 Corinthians 7:7 For I would that all men were **even as I myself**. But every man hath his proper gift of God, one after this manner, and another after that. 1 Corinthians 7:8 I say therefore to the unmarried and widows, **It is good (καλόν)** for them if they abide even as I.

1 Corinthians 7:26 I suppose therefore that this is **good (καλόν)** for the present distress, I say, that it is **good (καλόν)** for a man so to be.

We **must** have this idea:

Singleness is **not** better.

Singleness is **not** worse.

Singleness is **good**.

2. Singleness is **not** good for everyone.

3. Singleness is **only** good **if** you are so-gifted.

1 Corinthians 7:7 For I would that all men were even as I myself. **But (ἀλλ' ἕκαστος ἰδίου χάρισμα ἔχει ἐκ θεοῦ)** every man hath his proper gift of God, one after this manner (ὅς μὲν οὕτως), and another after that (ὅς δὲ οὕτως).

1 Corinthians 7:9 But if they cannot contain, let them marry: **for it is better (κρείσσον)** to marry than to burn.

How would we know **if** we are so-gifted?

- We probably would recognize the gift
- Others would recognize the gift
- We would be able to maintain self-control
- Marriage⁺ would not consume you

Remember: This might be true from A to B

Not necessarily from birth to death

4. Singleness is especially good for certain circumstances, situations, & periods of time!

1 Corinthians 7:25 Now concerning virgins I have no commandment of the Lord: yet I give my judgment, as one that hath obtained mercy of the Lord to be faithful.

1 Corinthians 7:26 I suppose therefore that this is good for the present distress, I say, that it is good for a man so to be.

1 Corinthians 7:27 Art thou bound unto a wife? seek not to be loosed. Art thou loosed from a wife? seek not a wife.

1 Corinthians 7:28 **But and if thou marry, thou hast not sinned;** and if a virgin marry, she hath not sinned.

Nevertheless such shall have trouble in the flesh: but I spare you.

1 Corinthians 7:29 But this I say, brethren, **the time is short:** it remaineth, that both they that have wives be as though they had none;

1 Corinthians 7:30 And they that weep, as though they wept not; and they that rejoice, as though they rejoiced not; and they that buy, as though they possessed not;

1 Corinthians 7:31 And they that use this world, as not abusing it: **for** the fashion of this world passeth away.

1 Corinthians 7:32 **But I would have you without carefulness.** He that is unmarried careth for the things that belong to the Lord, how he may please the Lord:

Times | Circumstances | Situations:

- **Till college is finished**
- **Till training is completed**
- **Till a career is more or less established**
- **Not until one is far into graduate & post-graduate studies**
- **Never until we have worked through our own issues**

Extreme circumstances:

Jeremiah 16:1 The word of the LORD came also unto me, saying,

Jeremiah 16:2 **Thou shalt not take thee a wife, neither shalt thou have sons or daughters in this place.**

Jeremiah 16:3 **For** thus saith the LORD concerning the sons and concerning the daughters that are born in this place, and concerning their mothers that bare them, and concerning their fathers that begat them in this land; **Jeremiah 16:4** They shall die of grievous deaths; they shall not be lamented; neither shall they be buried; but they shall be as dung upon the face of the earth: and they shall be consumed by the sword, and by famine; and their carcasses shall be meat for the fowls of heaven, and for the beasts of the earth.

Jeremiah 16:5 **For thus saith the LORD,** Enter not into the house of mourning, neither go to lament nor bemoan them: for I have taken away my peace from this people, saith the LORD, even lovingkindness and mercies. **Jeremiah 16:6** Both the great and the small shall die in this land: they shall not be buried, neither shall men lament for them, nor cut themselves, nor make themselves bald for them: **Jeremiah 16:7** Neither shall men tear themselves for them in mourning, to comfort them for the dead; neither shall men give them the cup of consolation to drink for their father or for their mother. **Jeremiah 16:8** Thou shalt not also go into the house of feasting, to sit with them to eat and to drink.

Jeremiah 16:9 For thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Behold, I will cause to cease out of this place in your eyes, and in your days, the voice of mirth, and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom, and the voice of the bride.

Ezekiel 24:15 Also the word of the LORD came unto me, saying,

Ezekiel 24:16 **Son of man, behold, I take away from thee the desire of thine eyes with a stroke: yet neither shalt thou mourn nor weep, neither shall thy tears run down.**

Ezekiel 24:17 **Forbear** to cry, make no mourning for the dead, bind the tire of thine head upon thee, and put on thy shoes upon thy feet, and cover not thy lips, and eat not the bread of men.

Ezekiel 24:18 **So I spake unto the people in the morning: and at even my wife died; and I did in the morning as I was commanded.**

Ezekiel 24:19 And the people said unto me, **Wilt thou not tell us what these things are to us, that thou doest so?**

Ezekiel 24:20 Then I answered them, The word of the LORD came unto me, saying, **Ezekiel 24:21** Speak unto the house of Israel, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I will profane my sanctuary, the excellency of your strength, the desire of your eyes, and that which your soul pitieth; and your sons and your daughters whom ye have left shall fall by the sword.

Ezekiel 24:22 And ye shall do as I have done: ye shall not cover your lips, nor eat the bread of men. **Ezekiel 24:23** And your tires shall be upon your heads, and your shoes upon your feet: ye shall not mourn nor weep; but ye shall pine away for your iniquities, and mourn one toward another. **Ezekiel 24:24** Thus Ezekiel is unto you a sign: according to all that he hath done shall ye do: and when this cometh, ye shall know that I am the Lord GOD.

Do we have any other examples of this?

606 BC – Daniel

598 BC – Ezekiel

586 BC - Jeremiah