

THE GIFT OF SINGLENESS (1 COR 7:7) (continued)

4. Three caveats:
 - a. Godliness with contentment is great gain (1 Tim. 6:6).
 - b. Desiring marriage is not a guarantee of marriage. You can pray for greater contentment.
 - c. Contentment in singleness and openness to marriage are not mutually exclusive.

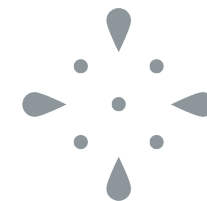
THE FREEDOM OF SINGLENESS (1 COR 7:25-35)

1. Freedom *from* the troubles of marriage (v. 28)
2. Freedom *from* pleasing your spouse (vs. 33-34)
3. Freedom *from* having divided interests (vs. 35)
4. Freedom *to* be single (vs. 32-35)
5. Freedom *to* dedicate your life with singular purpose to God (vs. 32, 34, 35)

Next Week: Relationships & Contentment in Singleness (Week 2)

Questions, concerns, feedback or comments? Email me at radams@cfcbermingham.org.

Equip—Singleness & Dating **Class 1: Identity, Gifting, & Freedom**



Class Outline

Week 1: Identity, Gifting, & Freedom in Singleness
Week 2: Relationships & Contentment in Singleness
Week 3: Introduction to Dating
Week 4: Initiation and Early Stages of Dating
Week 5: Moving Towards Engagement
Week 6: Dating: What Could Possibly Go Wrong?

IDENTITY

1. Single

19th and first half of 20th century: Single adults – 5% of the population

2008: Singles make up 45% of the population

Definition of singleness:

- Those in our church community who have the opportunity and freedom to use their gifts in undivided devotion to the Lord (1 Cor 7:35).

2. Employee or Student

- Eph 4:28; Proverbs 14:23; 21:25; 22:29; 28:19.
- Take advantage of the freedom.
- Don't set an impossible pace (Luke 14:28-33).
- Build your life around a church (Heb 10:23-25).

3. Son Or Daughter

- Honor and respect your parents (Eph 6:1, Pro 23:22-25).
- Put yourself within striking distance of older men and women in the congregation (Titus 2; Heb 13:17).

4. Sexual Being

“Some people think of world religions as Christianity’s main competitors. Yet I think it can be fairly said that the main competitor that Christianity faces today in the West is not Islam or Judaism. It is not atheism or Hinduism. It is eroticism—the increasingly uninhibited search for fulfilling our sexual passions in whatever form we please” (Mark Dever).

- One of the greatest dangers of singleness is the ability to isolate yourself (Gen 3; Prov 18:1; Eph 5).
- Be honest and open instead of ashamed and secretive.
- Those of you who have active sexual pasts –the blood of Christ covers your sin (Rev 1:5).
- If you are struggling, don’t fight this battle alone.

5. Christian & Church Member

- As Christians, *identity confusion* occurs when we let the things of this world define us more than God’s Word.
- God’s perspective on our identity should be primary.
- Your fundamental identity is that of a Christian (Eph 2:1-7; 4:22-24; Gal 3:26-28).
- Take greater ownership of your faith *now*.

THE GIFT OF SINGLENES (1 COR 7:7)

1. Some singles should pursue marriage.
2. Some singles can choose to remain single for a season, or even a lifetime.
3. The gift of singleness means one is spiritually motivated for singleness, lives a self-controlled life, and is content with what God has given.