

COMMUNITY GROUP WEEKLY DISCUSSION GUIDE
WEEK OF OCTOBER 5, 2009

THIS WEEK'S FOCUS

Intentional Singleness

"My boyfriend used to ask his mother, 'How can I find the right woman for me?' and she would answer, 'Don't worry about finding the right woman – concentrate on becoming the right man.'"

-Unknown

"For there are eunuchs who have been so from birth, and there are eunuchs who have been made eunuchs by men, and there are eunuchs who have made themselves eunuchs for the sake of the kingdom of heaven. Let the one who is able to receive this receive it."

-Matthew 19:12

THIS WEEK'S TEXT

1 Cor 7:25-40

RELATED TEXTS TO EXPLORE

Mat 5, 19; Rom 13:11, Heb 13, 2 Cor 6

STUDY GUIDE

- **What observations can be made about:**
 - The importance Paul places on "undivided devotion to the Lord"
 - The freedom a believer has to make life decisions, and what those decisions reveal about the person making them
 - What Paul says here about marriage and how it compares to what Jesus said
 - Marital concerns being called "worldly"
 - The importance Paul places on marriage in his own life
 - The emphasis on marrying only "in the Lord"

Because this passage has some particularly tricky elements, I would encourage you to utilize commentaries and outside resources for study.

<http://www.soniclight.com/constable/notes/pdf/1corinthians.pdf>

<http://net.bible.org/bible.php?search=1%20corinthians%207&book=1%20corinthians&chapter=7>

<http://www.evangelibrary.info/members/nt/ngsb/main.htm>

- **What does each of these things mean? What did they mean for the church at Corinth then, what do they mean for us now?**

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

Use any or as many of these questions as will be helpful for your discussion.

- What has God spoken to you about this week regarding the sermon or passage?
- What does this passage reveal to us about Jesus?
- How does this passage enhance our understanding of the Gospel?
- What does this text mean for us as a community? Individually? How does it free us to be the people God intends for us to be?
- How do we need to live out the meaning of this text in our city?
- Do you (or did you ever) view marriage as your hope for a better life? If you're married, how would you describe marriage to a single person who is holding to that hope?
- In what ways is God calling you to "Serve, Give & Go"? If you're single, what would it look like for you to steward your singleness well and not waste it?
- Men, what do you think is a godly way to pursue a woman? Women, what would cause you to feel righteously pursued?
- If you were to view sex from a non-biblical perspective, would there be wisdom in the idea of sexual purity (i.e. not engaging in sexual relationships outside of marriage)? If so, how would you describe that wisdom to somebody?

"Purity is the beginning of all passion. Thus, faithful marriage is the only guarantee of unbridled sexual pleasure."

–Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

MEMORY VERSES

Last Week: Eph 5:25-26

This Week: 1 Cor 7:35

PRAYER FOCUS

For the Vision and Direction of the church (October):

Apostles Church wants to be a people who intentionally connect others to Jesus. We will authentically, compassionately and intelligently dialogue with the culture about the Gospel of Jesus.

In Response to the Text:

- Praising God for creating us with a huge capacity and a great desire to experience love
- Praising God for being sufficient to fill that capacity and satiate those desires for love
- Confessing our own preoccupation with temporal concerns
- Confessing our discontentment even in the midst of God's provision
- Thanking Jesus for loving the church as a husband loves his bride
- Thanking God for the gifts of marriage and singleness that both strengthen the church
- Asking for contentment and gratefulness at what the Lord has provided for us
- Asking for Spirit-led dreams and desires for our lives

FURTHER RESOURCES FOR STUDY AND PREPARATION

- *The Four Loves* – C.S. Lewis
- *Captivating* – John & Stasi Eldridge
- *Love & Respect* – Emerson Eggerichs
- *Lady in Waiting* – Jackie Kendall and Debby Jones
- *Passion and Purity* – Elisabeth Elliot
- *Sacred Marriage* – Gary Thomas

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NEXT WEEK'S TEXT

Ephesians 6:1-4