

THIS IS US

PART 3: THE GOODNESS OF SINGLENESS

Sermon Notes

Text: 1 Corinthians 7:25-35

Intro:

When Jesus is the center of your relationships, you will have healthy relationships.

Am I living happy and content in my current situation? Or am I wasting today dreaming about another time?

1 Corinthians 7:25-35

Marriage can become an idol - *When good things become ultimate things, they enslave us*

1. Singleness is not a problem to be solved

We often see singles as somehow deficient, but it's hard to believe that when the founder of our faith (Jesus) and its greatest theologian (Paul) were single men.

First century Christians who chose to remain single were making a statement about their beliefs. They were stating that their truest family was their church family. Their true provider was God. And their future was in God's hands, not in the hands of their heirs.

Matthew 12:46-50 - Jesus' truest family was the family of God. His truest identity was his identity as son of God.

Your primary identity is not found in any relationship status other than your relationship with God.

2. Singleness is a gift

1 Corinthians 7:7

In the New Testament, a gift from God was always meant to be used to build up and encourage. Singleness provides opportunities for ministry that marriage excludes.

Do not despise the situation you are in

Practical wisdom for Singles:

1. Ask God how your singleness can best serve him
2. Focus on developing your character
3. Develop a deeply fulfilling relationship with Jesus

Conclusion

Life Group Discussion

Warm up:

1. What stood out to you about Sunday's sermon? What was interesting? Confusing? Weird? Thought provoking?
2. What are the some of the advantages of being single? What are some of the challenges? What are the advantages of being married? What are some of the challenges? How do each of these relationship statuses make it easier or harder to serve God?

Study & Discussion:

1. Have you ever been guilty of believing that singleness is a problem to be solved? Do you think our Canadian Christian culture puts pressure on singles to be married? Why do we do that? How can we help singles (of all kinds - unmarried, divorced, widowed/widower) feel more included in the family of God?
2. Read 1 Corinthians 7:25-35 (our text from Sunday). What stands out to you? What does it mean that a married person should live as though they are not married (v. 29)? In what ways does being married divide your attention from serving the lord (v. 34)?
3. Our text from Sunday is a part of a longer discussion of singleness and marriage. Read 1 Corinthians 7:8-17. What is Paul saying here? Why does Paul repeatedly remind the readers that these are his commands, not the Lord's (v. 8, 10, 12)? What applications remain today?

Application:

1. How will you capitalize on your current relationship status to best serve God, and serve his people?

Prayer:

- Pray for contentment in your relationship status, and for unity in the family of God.

Other Requests

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