

January 15/16, 2022

Relatable: Exploring God's good design for relationships
"Celibacy & Friendship"

The SCRIPTURE: 1 Corinthians 7:7, Matthew 19:10-12, Mark 3:31-34

The BIG IDEA: Following Jesus is both costly and worth it, as He promises to satisfy our desires.

The Challenge:

The New Testament challenges the modern assumption that the good life is only found through romantic relationships. Paul, and Jesus, dignify the single life and even call some to a lifetime of singleness. The way that the single flourish is not in their own biological family, but rather in the family of God.

Pastor Chris' Prayer for this message:

Our community would be a place where all people, married and single, can find a place to belong.

Questions for discussion:

1. Review from last week – 1 Corinthians 7:7

- What is startling or surprising about the last few weeks as we have considered singleness?
- Both singleness and marriage are meant to point to a great Kingdom reality. What are those realities?

2. Celibacy – Matthew 19:10-12

- Jesus uses the eunuch here to dignify singleness. How does Jesus' view of singleness challenge or encourage you?
- Lifelong celibacy means that these people give up romance, marriage, sex, and children. How does this strike you in our current age?
- How has your view of sex been shaped by our culture that is obsessed with it?
- There are three types of sexual diets: starvation (sex as repression), fast-food (sex as appetite) and the banquet (sex as rightly ordered and satisfied in God). What option is given to the celibate? What option are you living right now?

3. Friendship – Mark 3:31-34

- Jesus' response to his mother and brothers is startling. What is He saying regarding the nuclear family unit and the family of God?
- Do you have strong friendships in your life? If so, what do they look like? What is keeping you from them?

Application:

What does it look like for your Life Group to be a tight-knit group of friends? Are you currently experiencing the familial love and connection that Jesus invites us into?