

LOVE IS

1 & 2 Corinthians

Week 8:

1 Corinthians 7:25-40

- 1 Corinthians 7:1-24 - Paul does not want debates about marriage and sexual ethics to become the focus of a Gospel preaching church.
- There is nothing we have to do to become Gospel eligible
- It is not good to create division over distinctions or classes among believers
- Paul has been teaching what is commanded. He now switches to what He believes is wise and good, but not obligatory.

1 Corinthians 7:25-28

- Betrothed/unmarried/virgins - those not yet married but eligible
- “present distress” - two points on the spectrum...or a both/and
 - the return of Christ is near, so all should heed this wisdom
 - more people committed to the Kingdom
 - the distress is local to Corinth or Paul’s time
 - a powerful witness to Corinth during persecution
- Remain as you are as to focus on Kingdom work and also to avoid greater troubles

1 Corinthians 7:29-31

- Due to the shortness of life and the return of Jesus, our condition of married, mourning/rejoicing, buying/selling needs to yield to the needs of the Kingdom of God
- This world is passing away

1 Corinthians 7:32-35

- The repeated thesis - be free from worry!
- An unmarried person has less on earth to divide attention and increase worry
- Paul wants to encourage single minded devotion to God through single living
- Singleness is a gift, not a grief! If it is a grief, then marry!

1 Corinthians 7:36-38

- Concerning engaged couples...if they are committed to God's purpose in marriage...then marry!
- For those stable and able...remain unmarried.

1 Corinthians 7:39-40

- Remember, women were at a great societal disadvantage!
 - A Christian widow is free to remarry - her life may depend on it. But she should marry a believer.
- The goal, again, is to be free of anxiety!
- If possible to remain single, there is happiness in it.
- Paul believes his teachings to be inspired. There is no previous teaching in scripture to rely on for these matters.

For us:

- Are we promoting both marriage and single life as faithful expressions of devotion to God?
- Have we become comfortable with our 'present distress'...creating our own kingdoms instead of seeking His?
- How is our approach to guiding young people into holiness and obedience working?