

## Series: 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians

**Sunday, May 17.** Read our daily sermon reflections on GCC's app (under Devotionals) or at [gardiner.church/devotions](http://gardiner.church/devotions)

### 1. SINGLENESS IS NOT A W .....

(1 Corinthians 7:7-9, 32-35; See also Genesis 24:12-14; Matthew 19:12)

- Singleness is a charisma, a Spirit-given gift just like any other spiritual gift. Paul himself had this gift and flourished in it. Whether singleness is your current season or your lifelong calling, you are not incomplete. You are not on hold. You are gifted, called, and fully available to God for his kingdom purposes. If you long for a spouse, bring that desire to God honestly and specifically — like Abraham's servant in Genesis 24. Trust God's timing. Don't settle. And if God has called you to singleness, embrace it as the gift it truly is.
- Is there an area of your life right now where God might be calling you to greater devotion to him — whether you are single or married?

**NOTES:** .....

.....

.....

### 2. MARRIAGE IS M ..... THAN YOU THINK

(Genesis 2:18, 24; 1 Corinthians 7:3-5,9; see Proverbs 5:19; 18:22; Song 2:3)

- Marriage is God's idea, rooted in creation itself. God said it is not good for man to be alone, and he designed the one-flesh union of husband and wife as a profound and beautiful gift. That gift includes physical intimacy which the Bible celebrates openly and without embarrassment. It is also companionship where two people grow together in love and faith, as they work in Christ's mission together. Proverbs 18:22 calls marriage a favor from the Lord, and that is exactly what it is.
- For those married, what is one practical step you can take this week to invest more intentionally and joyfully in your marriage? How can you prepare well if you hope to be married one day?

**NOTES:** .....

.....

.....

*Turn page over for #3*

## Series: 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians

**Sunday, May 17.** Read our daily sermon reflections on GCC's app (under Devotionals) or at [gardiner.church/devotions](http://gardiner.church/devotions)

### 1. SINGLENESS IS NOT A W .....

(1 Corinthians 7:7-9, 32-35; See also Genesis 24:12-14; Matthew 19:12)

- Singleness is a charisma, a Spirit-given gift just like any other spiritual gift. Paul himself had this gift and flourished in it. Whether singleness is your current season or your lifelong calling, you are not incomplete. You are not on hold. You are gifted, called, and fully available to God for his kingdom purposes. If you long for a spouse, bring that desire to God honestly and specifically — like Abraham's servant in Genesis 24. Trust God's timing. Don't settle. And if God has called you to singleness, embrace it as the gift it truly is.
- Is there an area of your life right now where God might be calling you to greater devotion to him — whether you are single or married?

**NOTES:** .....

.....

.....

### 2. MARRIAGE IS M ..... THAN YOU THINK

(Genesis 2:18, 24; 1 Corinthians 7:3-5,9; see Proverbs 5:19; 18:22; Song 2:3)

- Marriage is God's idea, rooted in creation itself. God said it is not good for man to be alone, and he designed the one-flesh union of husband and wife as a profound and beautiful gift. That gift includes physical intimacy which the Bible celebrates openly and without embarrassment. It is also companionship where two people grow together in love and faith, as they work in Christ's mission together. Proverbs 18:22 calls marriage a favor from the Lord, and that is exactly what it is.
- For those married, what is one practical step you can take this week to invest more intentionally and joyfully in your marriage? How can you prepare well if you hope to be married one day?

**NOTES:** .....

.....

.....

*Turn page over for #3*

**3. ONE BELIEVER CAN C ..... A HOUSEHOLD**

(1 Corinthians 7:13-16; see also 1 Peter 3:1; cf. 2 Corinthians 6:14)

- If you are the only believer in your home, you are not without influence. Paul tells us that the unbelieving spouse is sanctified — specially marked out and brought into the sphere of God's blessing — through the believing spouse. The grace God pours into your life spills over onto the people around you. Your faithful, loving, prayerful presence is your greatest witness — not arguments, not pressure, but the slow, steady, beautiful way you live for Jesus in front of the people you love most. Keep praying. Keep living. Keep loving. The story is not over yet.
- Question to consider: Who in your home or closest circle needs to see Jesus in the way you live more than they need to hear another argument from you?

**NOTES:** .....

.....  
.....

**Application For This Week:** Whatever your situation this week, take a moment to celebrate the grace God has given you right where you are. If you are single, celebrate the gift of undivided devotion and trust God with your desires. If you are longing for a spouse, then commit that desire to God specifically and prayerfully, and trust his timing and his choice. If you are married, celebrate one of God's finest gifts and invest in it with fresh intentionality and gratitude. If you are the believing spouse in a spiritually-mixed home, celebrate the extraordinary privilege of being God's grace and presence to your whole household. Then with God's grace, take one concrete step to glorify him in your calling, right where he has placed you.

**Prayer:** *Heavenly Father, thank you that my situation is not an accident and that your grace reaches me exactly where I am. Help me to live my life as a calling. Give me contentment where I am, courage to trust you with what I long for, and grace to love the people closest to me the way Jesus loves me. Whoever I am, however I find myself, wherever you have placed me — may I live in a holy devotion to you. In Jesus' Name, Amen.*

**Verse To Meditate On This Week:** *“each person should live as a believer in whatever situation the Lord has assigned to them, just as God has called them” – 1 Corinthians 7:17*

**3. ONE BELIEVER CAN C ..... A HOUSEHOLD**

(1 Corinthians 7:13-16; see also 1 Peter 3:1; cf. 2 Corinthians 6:14)

- If you are the only believer in your home, you are not without influence. Paul tells us that the unbelieving spouse is sanctified — specially marked out and brought into the sphere of God's blessing — through the believing spouse. The grace God pours into your life spills over onto the people around you. Your faithful, loving, prayerful presence is your greatest witness — not arguments, not pressure, but the slow, steady, beautiful way you live for Jesus in front of the people you love most. Keep praying. Keep living. Keep loving. The story is not over yet.
- Question to consider: Who in your home or closest circle needs to see Jesus in the way you live more than they need to hear another argument from you?

**NOTES:** .....

.....  
.....

**Application For This Week:** Whatever your situation this week, take a moment to celebrate the grace God has given you right where you are. If you are single, celebrate the gift of undivided devotion and trust God with your desires. If you are longing for a spouse, then commit that desire to God specifically and prayerfully, and trust his timing and his choice. If you are married, celebrate one of God's finest gifts and invest in it with fresh intentionality and gratitude. If you are the believing spouse in a spiritually-mixed home, celebrate the extraordinary privilege of being God's grace and presence to your whole household. Then with God's grace, take one concrete step to glorify him in your calling, right where he has placed you.

**Prayer:** *Heavenly Father, thank you that my situation is not an accident and that your grace reaches me exactly where I am. Help me to live my life as a calling. Give me contentment where I am, courage to trust you with what I long for, and grace to love the people closest to me the way Jesus loves me. Whoever I am, however I find myself, wherever you have placed me — may I live in a holy devotion to you. In Jesus' Name, Amen.*

**Verse To Meditate On This Week:** *“each person should live as a believer in whatever situation the Lord has assigned to them, just as God has called them” – 1 Corinthians 7:17*