

Live for God where you are - 1Corinthians 7
Bible study notes 23rd Nov 2014

1. Why do we often feel like 'the grass is greener' for others?

Read 1 Cor 7:17-40

2. How does the world criticise both marriage and singleness?

3. How does Paul talk about them in v 7?

4. What phrase or idea keeps coming up in v17-34?

5. By repeating this idea Paul is saying there is something more important than our identity or circumstances. Describe what it is in your own words.

6. Some people might argue that they can't live for God in their situation, how does Paul respond in v22-23?

7. How does Paul encourage us to get a better perspective on our lives in v29,31?

8. This section is mostly about marriage, sex and singleness. Why are these issues so hard to be objective about and how can what Paul has shared help?

Prayer

Ask God to change your heart before your circumstances. Pray that He would show you how you can live for Him where you are.

Ask God to give you real perspective so you will hold onto Jesus more and this world less.

Further thoughts

Do you find challenging situations an excuse not to live for Jesus or can you use them to find opportunities to serve Him?

If single do you make the most of your gift and use your time to serve Jesus?

If married do you love your spouse by living as if everything belongs to them?

If you want to talk anymore about the issues raised in the talk please speak to one of us.
Some questions from Mark Dever, 1 Cor 1-9 Challenging Church by the good book company.

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Paul is answering some questions from the Corinthians, but only after he tackled division in the church, sexual sin and pride in previous chapters. Like us they lived in a culture confused about marriage and that affected their behaviour. Paul wants them to refocus and see that there is something bigger than their situation or circumstances. Here is one way of getting into the passage and some questions on the other side to get you thinking.

- **The grass always looks greener - dissatisfied?**
- **Called by God v17-38**
- **We belong to God v22-23**
- **Jesus paid the price v23**
- **We all have gifts v7**
- **Called to live for Jesus where we are v17-38**
- **A destiny more important than our identity/circumstances v29-31**
- **Holding on too tight? / a better perspective**
- **Stay as you are**

1 Corinthians 7:1-7 from The Message

Now, getting down to the questions you asked in your letter to me. First, Is it a good thing to have sexual relations? 2-6 Certainly—but only within a certain context. It's good for a man to have a wife, and for a woman to have a husband. Sexual drives are strong, but marriage is strong enough to contain them and provide for a balanced and fulfilling sexual life in a world of sexual disorder. The marriage bed must be a place of mutuality—the husband seeking to satisfy his wife, the wife seeking to satisfy her husband. Marriage is not a place to “stand up for your rights.” Marriage is a decision to serve the other, whether in bed or out. Abstaining from sex is permissible for a period of time if you both agree to it, and if it's for the purposes of prayer and fasting—but only for such times. Then come back together again. Satan has an ingenious way of tempting us when we least expect it. I'm not, understand, commanding these periods of abstinence—only providing my best counsel if you should choose them. 7 Sometimes I wish everyone were single like me—a simpler life in many ways! But celibacy is not for everyone any more than marriage is. God gives the gift of the single life to some, the gift of the married life to others.