

LESSON 5

SINGLES OR DOUBLES?

1 CORINTHIANS 7:1–40



1 Give an example of when people might think *The grass is greener on the other side of the fence*.

2 When might married and single people think this way?



Read 1 Corinthians 7:1–40 and the following notes:

☐ 7:3–11 ☐ 7:4 ☐ 7:7 ☐ 7:12–14 ☐ 7:20 ☐ 7:28

3 What are the different life situations addressed in this chapter (7:1–40)?

4 What are the advantages of remaining single? (See 7:7, 8, 24, 28, 32–34, 36–38.)

5 What are the advantages of being married? (See 7:7, 9, 24, 36–38.)

It is easy to envy what others have. The problem with this is it assumes that what you have is inferior to what you don't have. This is especially true with marriage and singleness. In reality, both have accompanying benefits and problems. Paul saw this in the Corinthian church, where there was tremendous pressure for sexual immorality and a sense of urgency about spreading the gospel. Single people wanted to be married to avoid sin, and married people wanted to have more time to serve God. Both singleness and marriage are gifts, with advantages and disadvantages to each. Both can be used to glorify God. Instead of worrying about what you don't have, thank God for what you have, and focus on serving God where you are.



6 What do married people today envy about singleness?

7 What do single people today envy about marriage?

8 What are some of the reasons that marriage is to be entered into with care and much prayer?



9 Why is it difficult to remain single in our society?

10 Why is it difficult to remain married in our society?

11 Identify one specific aspect of marriage or singleness that you envy.

12 What makes it difficult for you to be content with your situation?

13 Pray and thank God for your singleness or marriage.

14 What opportunities do you have to use your single or married status to glorify God?



A What instructions did Paul give to married couples about their sexual relationship (7:1–5)? Why is it important to take these instructions seriously today?

B What reasons for divorce does Paul mention? When is divorce inappropriate? What plan of action would you suggest to a Christian who is in an unhappy marriage?

C In what ways are children of a believing parent holy (7:14)? What kind of parenting responsibilities does this imply?

D How do you think the Corinthians understood the phrase “the time that remains is very short” (7:29)? Time is even shorter now. How might this fact affect your lifestyle?

E In what issues other than marriage is it sometimes difficult to be content?

F Based on this chapter, what advice would you give to a young person about to get married?

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