

Living Like You Are Single

2026-06-02 • PASTOR MATT ROSE



1 Corinthians 7

FOR THE LEADER

These questions help you run the conversation. They are not your study. Get into the passage yourself first, because your group needs what God taught you, not just a list of questions. These also lean on Sunday's message, so a few will not land for anyone who missed it. Watch it before you lead.

WHAT THE MESSAGE WAS ABOUT

Opening the marriage series, Pastor Matt made a surprising observation about 1 Corinthians 7: Paul says nearly the same thing to married people and single people. Remain where you are, and give God undivided devotion. The situation is not the point. The devotion is. From there Pastor Matt got practical. A spouse is not a substitute for personal obedience. Nobody should be blamed for a prayer life you never built. And the instinct to change your situation is often just the instinct to avoid seeking Christ inside it.

To get started

- What did you assume would be solved by a change of circumstances, and was not?

Looking back at the message

The room will include married, single, widowed and separated people. Keep all four in view.

- 1 Paul's counsel to the married and the single is broadly the same. Did that surprise you? Why or why not?
- 2 Pastor Matt said we sometimes blame a spouse for a prayer life we never built ourselves. Where have you seen that happen?
- 3 Pastor Matt admitted that when he met his wife, she was not what he thought he was looking for, and his own heart had to change first. What did you make of him saying that out loud? OPTIONAL

Looking at the passage

Read 1 Corinthians 7:7-11 and 17 aloud. Paul distinguishes his own counsel from the Lord's command; notice where.

- 4 Read 1 Corinthians 7:17. What does Paul instruct? Scan the chapter and count how many times he repeats the same idea.
- 5 Paul marks some of this chapter as his own judgment and some as the Lord's command. Why does that honesty matter for how we read it?
- 6 Verse 9 gets quoted on its own all the time. What does it actually say when you read the verses around it?
- 7 Read 1 Peter 3:1-2. What does this passage promise about a life of quiet obedience, and what does it not promise? OPTIONAL

Bringing it home

'Remain where you are' is not advice for an unsafe situation. If that surfaces, stop and talk to a pastor.

- 8 Pastor Matt said praying together can be performative if neither of you prays alone. What has your own prayer life looked like lately?
- 9 Where are you tempted to think a different situation, married, single, new job, new city, would make obedience easier?
- 10 Pastor Matt said some of us use family as the reason we cannot do what God called us to. Is there something you have shelved that way?
- 11 What would it mean to treat your current situation as something you are called to rather than stuck in?

The group together

Single people are often talked about in a marriage series rather than talked to.

- 12 Paul calls singleness good, not a waiting room. How well does the church you know actually treat it that way?
- 13 When a marriage gets hard, what advice do people in your circles usually give, and how does it compare with this chapter?
- 14 What is one thing this group could do for someone whose household does not share their faith?

BEFORE YOU FINISH

What is one act of obedience that belongs to you alone, that no one else in your household could do for you?

You might pray about

- For undivided devotion wherever each of us currently is
- For those who are single and tired of being asked about it
- For households where only one person is pursuing God
- For contentment that is not resignation