

*The Gift of Marriage / The Gift of Singleness*  
*1 Cor. 7:1-17*

*"If God calls a man or woman to remain single, he will give grace for it. If God calls to the married life, and that involves hardship, or maybe a divided home, or even suffering, He will give grace for that too.*

*The one whose family life is an example to others is to be respected. The one who remains for the Kingdom's sake is to be respected. The one who suffers the cruel misunderstanding of an unbelieving partner is to be respected, also. In every instance we are to abide in our calling: submitting to the will of God, depending upon the grace of God, making every effort to bring glory to God, striving to be approved by Him, always bearing in mind that one day we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ."*  
*Redpath*

- I. Jesus expects the man and woman he has brought together for the purpose of marriage, to hold in high regard the gift he has given them. The Lord has assigned and called them to walk through life together as one, selflessly treating one another as precious in his sight. They have been called to be an example of a godly marriage that not only glorifies God but gives strength and unity to the church by living the gospel well before others.

1 Cor. 7:1-7

Eph. 5:21-33

Col. 3:18-19

- II. Jesus expects those he has given the gift singleness, to take the assigned place in life he has called them to seriously by remaining pure before him. He has called them to accept his will through offering their bodies as living sacrifices holy and pleasing to him for Kingdom use (Rom. 12:1-2). They have been called to be an example before others by living at peace with God's will, satisfied to live their lives for his glory.

1 Cor. 7:7-9

1 Tim. 4:1-3

- III.** Jesus expects those who are married, to honor their covenant commitment to one another by remaining married. They are to accept the partner God has given to them as part of his good, pleasing and perfect will for their lives. He does not permit a couple to divorce for any reason other than unrepentant adultery, or if an unbeliever chooses to leave a believing spouse because of their embrace of Christ as their Lord and Savior.

1 Cor. 7:10-11,15

Malachi 2:16

Matthew 19:3-9

- IV.** Jesus expects a believer who is unequally yoked with an unbeliever to set a strong Christian example before him or her by living the fruit of the Spirit in ways that draw them to wanting Christ in their lives. He has given believers who are unequally yoked a unique opportunity to represent the gospel well, as the family benefits from the blessings of God's grace through their salvation.

1 Cor. 7:12-16

2 Cor. 6:14-15

1 Peter 3:1-2

- V.** Jesus wants us to understand that whatever our assigned lot in life, be it single, widowed, divorced, remarried, or married, where ever the Lord has us, we are to accept it and live well for him in the days we have left. The time is short, his return is imminent and nothing in this life is worth compromising the gift of our salvation.

1 Cor. 7:17