

WHAT I WISH I KNEW...

single. dating. married.

LIVING SINGLE

August 18, 2024

DIGGING DEEPER

Use this guide by yourself or with friends as you seek to know God.

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Unless otherwise noted, words and phrases in this study guide are based on language from the New International Version (NIV).

"I am saying this for your benefit, not to place restrictions on you. I want you to do whatever will help you serve the Lord best, with as few distractions as possible." 1 Corinthians 7:35 (NLT)

Insight: Paul, the Spirit-inspired writer of 1 Corinthians, affirms the value of singleness, as well as the value of marriage. But above those he upholds the value of a life devoted to our Lord Jesus.

To get you thinking: Name at least one benefit and one challenge of being single, as well as one benefit and one challenge of being married.

Read 1 Corinthians 7:7-11, 25-35.

1. How would you summarize 1 Corinthians 7:7-11?
2. Why do you think the writer encourages single people to stay unmarried and married people to stay married?
3. What implication does verse 9 have regarding sexual intimacy?
4. Has God given you the gift of singleness, or of marriage? Why do you believe that?
5. Why do you think we are encouraged in verse 26 to *remain as we are*? What does that mean for you personally?
6. What do you think verse 29 means where it says: *The time is short*? See 1 Peter 4:7. How does that perspective influence your thinking?
7. How would you explain the advantages of singleness according to verses 32-35?
8. What question would you ask Jesus regarding this whole passage?
9. Based on this passage, what advice would you give to a single person? To a married person?
10. Spend time with the Father, asking Him what He wants you to know from this passage. Listen for His response and write down the thoughts God's Spirit brings to mind.

Your relationship status doesn't define you – Jesus does.

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