

"male and female He created them." (Gen. 1:27)

God's Grand Design

The Beauty of Biblical Complementarity (pt. 16)

Singleness and Complementarity

1 Corinthians 7:7-8, 32-35

⁷ Yet I wish that all men were even as I myself am (*i.e. single*). However, each man has his own gift from God, one in this manner, and another in that.

⁸ But I say to the unmarried and to widows that it is good for them if they remain (*unmarried*) even as I.

(1 Corinthians 7:7-8)

Singleness as a Gift

➤ Foundations:

- (1) God's covenant people are produce through new birth/regeneration not physical descent
- (2) Christ's family (the church) is more permanent and precious than biological family
- (3) Marriage and family are temporary for this age; the church is primary and eternal

³ Let not the foreigner who has joined himself to the LORD say, "The LORD will surely separate me from His people." Nor let the eunuch say, "Behold, I am a dry tree."

⁴ For thus says the LORD, "To the eunuchs who keep My sabbaths, And choose what pleases Me, And hold fast My covenant,

⁵ To them I will give in My house and within My walls a memorial, And a name better than that of sons and daughters; I will give them an everlasting name which will not be cut off.

(Isaiah 56:3-5)

Singleness as a Gift

1. All Christ-focused singleness is a gift

- singleness does not require a special calling or an unusual ability
- the "gift" is God's enablement of a contented attitude contributing to a life of serve without frustration or uncontrollable temptation

Singleness as a Gift

2. Singleness has great kingdom advantages

³² But I want you to be free from concern. One who is unmarried is concerned about the things of the Lord, how he may please the Lord; ³³ but one who is married is concerned about the things of the world, how he may please his wife, ³⁴ and *his interests* are divided. The woman who is unmarried, and the virgin, is concerned about the things of the Lord, that she may be holy both in body and spirit; but one who is married is concerned about the things of the world, how she may please her husband. ³⁵ This I say for your own benefit, not to put a restraint upon you, but to promote what is appropriate and to *secure* undistracted devotion to the Lord.

(1 Corinthians 7:32-35)

Singleness as a Gift

2. Singleness has great kingdom advantages

- greater focus, flexibility and freedom in devotion to Christ than those who are married
- uniquely displays the all-sufficient, all-satisfying value of Christ alone