

## THRIVING: AS A SINGLE CHRISTIAN

### I Cor. 7:6-9

#### INTRODUCTION:

- A. According to the United States Census Bureau, almost 50% of U.S. adults are single. That is about 126.9 million individuals. It's amazing that with a percentage like that, we do not hear more sermons on the single Christian or how to live as a godly single adult.
- B. As we wrap up this series called, *Thriving In Relationships*, I want to spend some time talking with those who are not in a marriage relationship. If you are married, don't tune me out. I want you to consider some things we will mention this morning as you help to disciple and include those who are single.
- C. We want to be disciples who make disciples. However, if we are going to be disciples who make disciples, we must learn how to minister to this large group of individuals too.

#### PEOPLE FIND THEMSELVES BEING SINGLE FOR MANY DIFFERENT REASONS

- A. Some people are single because they have made the choice to remain single.
- B. Some people are single because they just haven't found the right companion.
- C. Some people are single because of certain circumstances that have occurred in their lives.

#### PEOPLE IN SCRIPTURE WHO WERE SINGLE

- A. Anna (Lk. 2:36-38)
- B. Mary and Martha (Lk. 10:38-42)
- C. Jeremiah (Jer. 16:1-2)
- D. Paul (I Cor. 7:7-8)
- E. Jesus

#### PAUL'S THOUGHTS ON BEING SINGLE

- A. Paul considered his celibacy as a gift from God (I Cor. 7:7). He could control his physical desires.
- B. Paul lays out two reasons or benefits to being single during the present distress (I Cor. 7:28, 32-35).
  - 1. Single people do not have to worry about some of the earthly troubles married people have to be concerned with.
  - 2. Single people can serve God more fully because their attention is not divided.
- C. Being single is not a disease and we shouldn't treat it that way in the church.

#### ADVICE FOR THOSE WHO ARE SINGLE

- A. You are not defined by your marital status (Matt. 10:29-31; Psa. 139:13-16).
- B. You are part of the family of God (Matt. 12:46-49; I Cor. 12)
- C. Do not compromise on important matters (Judg. 14:1-3).
- D. Trust God and His plan for your life (Psa. 9:10; Psa. 46:10; Phil. 4:11-13).

#### CONCLUSION:

- A. Those who are not single should be understanding and prayerful for those who are single.
- B. If you are single, do not see your singleness as an obstacle but as an opportunity.