

**Week beginning 26<sup>th</sup> August 2024**  
**Sermon: Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2024**

Read 1Corinthians 7:25 - 40:

Why does Paul call singleness a “better” way (v38) and a “happier” way (v40) when he has such a high view of marriage?

Taking the chapter as a whole, what considerations would help a couple decide whether to marry, to wait or to stay single?

Pray for people as they deal with the issue of marriage.

Study 7: Marriage and Singleness

Readings: 1Corinthians 7

Read 1Corinthians 7:1 - 9:

Although Paul agrees that celibacy is good (v1), why is it impractical for many people (vv2, 7, 9)?

What practical advice does Paul give to the unmarried and the married for avoiding sexual immorality (vv2 - 9)?

Paul’s emphasis is not on what a spouse should expect but what a spouse should give (vv3 - 5). Why is this emphasis important?

Read 1Corinthians 7:10 - 16:

In v10 - 11 Paul speaks of divorce, how do his statements agree with what Jesus has already taught (see Mark 10:2 - 12)?

In v12 - 16 Paul addresses the marriages between Christians and non-Christians. Why might a Christian be tempted to divorce a non-Christian?

According to Paul, what are some benefits of remaining in a spiritually mixed marriage?

Under what circumstances would Paul seemingly allow for divorce and why?

Read 1Corinthians 7:17 - 24:

Paul counsels those who think they are in the wrong situation in life. How does Paul explain and illustrate the rule that applies to such people?

Paul speaks of God calling us to a certain situation (vv17, 24) and of God calling us while we were in that situation (vv18 - 22). How are these two dimensions of calling different?

How do you think this fits in with Paul's discussion on marriage?