

MESSAGE GUIDE

REBOOT: Wrapping Up Paul's Instructions on Marriage



June 3, 2018

1 Corinthians 7:25-40

CONNECT

Two starter questions this time:

- Whose marriage gives you the most hope, encouragement and inspiration?
- Do you know of anyone who has felt called to remain single in order to do more ministry?

STUDY

This is it! The concluding section from Paul's teaching on marriage, divorce, remarriage and singleness. A lot of what we find in 1 Corinthians 7:25-40 is reiteration of what Paul taught in verses 1-24. But there are a few new nuggets to think about. Give the passage a reading before you tackle the following questions.

- If you could sum up Paul's teaching throughout chapter 7, what would you say are his top three or four points? IOW, what is he most concerned about getting across to his readers?
- What does Paul mean at the end of verse 28 when he writes, "Yet those who marry will have worldly troubles, and I would spare you that?"

- What does Paul mean in verses 29 and 31 when he says, "The time that remains is very short...this world as we know it will soon pass away?"
- What main point is Paul trying to drive home in verses 32-35? Why does this teaching ring true?
- Paul makes a pretty strong push for the single life in these verses. What are your thoughts on what he writes?

APPLY

- How has your marital status (single, married, divorced, widowed) helped you to serve Christ more effectively? How has it hindered your service?
- It's not easy being single! Culturally speaking (even within the church), what types of external pressure keep people called to singleness from embracing such a lifestyle with confidence?
- Americans are getting married later and later. The average age of first marriage in the United States is 27 for women and 29 for men, up from 23 for women and 26 for men in 1990 and 20 and 22 in 1960. Does the decision to marry later have any implications on our society?
- Thinking back over 1 Corinthians 7, was there anything you learned for the first time? Was there any teaching you struggled with? Why?