

# Sermon Notes – February 11, 2018

## Review

- ⇒ Two weeks ago, we saw that God cares about the details of our personal life. In the fight against sin, we are not called to dismissed God's good gifts or neglect one another.
- ⇒ Last week, we saw that, as followers of Christ, we must find our CORE IDENTITY in Christ. We are first and most importantly sons & daughters of the King!

## Today's Text: I Corinthians 7:25-40

After addressing those advocating celibacy as a response to sexual sin, Paul now applies his words on singleness, marriage, and identity to those who are considering getting married.

- ⇒ Paul's advice falls into the context of a \_\_\_\_\_ (v 26). While we don't know exactly what this is, historic sources indicate it was probably a famine—a bad time to start a family!
- ⇒ Paul's advice demonstrates a way of approaching decisions that applies to more than just \_\_\_\_\_ questions and goes beyond \_\_\_\_\_ situations.

## Two Questions Paul Asks in Chapter 7

1. **What's my \_\_\_\_\_? (vv. 17-24) Am I considering change hoping to find greater \_\_\_\_\_ or spiritual \_\_\_\_\_?**  
In the context of marriage, neither singleness or marriage make you a better Christian or a more complete person.
2. **What's the \_\_\_\_\_? (vv. 25-40) Will this help or hinder my ability to \_\_\_\_\_?**  
In the context of marriage, having a spouse divides your attention, especially when famine makes it hard to care for a family.

## Paul's Reason – Living for a Cup of \_\_\_\_\_ vs the \_\_\_\_\_ (v 29)

- ⇒ The time is \_\_\_\_\_! Paul knew that Jesus had given an incredible time of opportunity and mercy for the unreached nations, but this time will come to an end!
- ⇒ Don't just think in the \_\_\_\_\_ sense of time. In an \_\_\_\_\_ sense, we all have limited time and doors for ministry only remain open for so long! (1 Cor 16:8-9)
- ⇒ Don't forget the \_\_\_\_\_! History shows us that when Christians get serious about the mission and live intentionally, God does amazing things.

## Responding to God's Word

- ⇒ People often tend toward \_\_\_\_\_. E.g. – “We should all abstain from sexual relations.” (7:1) The Bible gives believers great freedom. It's okay to get married. It's okay to remain single. Treat each other with grace regarding areas of freedom. Rather than telling each other what to do, it is better if we help each other make wise decisions.
- ⇒ In any decision, ask: “Am I doing this to find spiritual fulfillment in something other than Christ?” and “Will this help or hinder me in serving God?”
  - Marriage or singleness?
  - Taking a job?
  - Making a major purchase?
- ⇒ Beyond individual concerns, how does this affect Sunset Bible Church as a community? What are we being called to do? What is our role in the great mission?