

"God's Love Letter To an Unlovely Church"
Sanctified Advice to Singles and Widows

1 Cor 7:8-9 & 39-40 . To the unmarried and the widows I say that it is good for them to remain single as I am. 9 But if they cannot exercise self-control, they should marry. For it is better to marry than to burn with passion..... 39 A wife is bound to her husband as long as he lives. But if her husband dies, she is free to be married to whom she wishes, only in the Lord. 40 Yet in my judgment she is happier if she remains as she is. And I think that I too have the Spirit of God.

1. The Church of Christ Is Heterogeneous and God Cares About All of Us

Look at the groups in the church at Corinth

What does that tell us?

2. We Each Are Given to the Church For the Good of the Church

But who are the “unmarried”?

Paul tells both that they have a special place and role in the church

Widows –

Zechariah 7:10

1 Timothy 5:3-4

James 1:27

1 Tim 5:4-16 –

Singles – Vs 32 –

3. The Church Should Allow For and Support the Freedom to Choose According to the Word and Wisdom For the Times

Paul's Advice to Singles and Widows

If possible...

If not possible...

The Universal Principle in Paul's Advice

A caution –

Lawful Activities Must Be Regulated by

Wisdom is needed before entering

Paul is not relegating marriage to the level of..

1 Tim 5

Practice prudence appropriate for