

Bible Instructions For Those Who Live Alone

1 Corinthians 7

Home and Family Studies

- Lessons are often presented on the Home: dealing with problems in marriage and difficulties in parenting, the responsibilities of spouses and children...
- Little is said about those who are single or widowed.
- Perhaps it is because the “nuclear family” is assumed by brethren to be the only Biblically acceptable family structure.

Home and Family Studies

- There is a large segment of most local congregations who live unmarried.
 - Those who have been widowed (Naomi)
 - Those whose marriages end in divorce
 - Those who have not reached marriageable age
 - Those who elect to remain alone (the apostle Paul)
- These beloved disciples and the lives they must lead are addressed in the word of God.
 - They have a vital role in the health and work of the local church.
 - They are spoken of with affection and respect by the scriptures.
 - They must be treated with affection and regard by the disciples.

Questions About Single Christians

- ***Why might one be single?***
- Some may be single by **circumstance.**
 - Women who have yet to be asked to marry
 - Men who have yet to find a woman to accept their proposal
 - Those divorced through no fault of their own
 - Those who are widowed suffering the untimely loss of a spouse
 - Those too young to marry
 - Those who cannot marry due to illness

Questions About Single Christians

- ***Why might one be single?***
- Some may be single by **choice**.
 - Some may prefer the single life on its own merits.
 - Jesus said some would be single for the sake of the kingdom - Matt. 19:11-12.
 - Paul considered his singleness a gift from God - 1Cor. 7:7-8.
 - Some may simply have no interest in or capacity for physical relations reserved for and required in marriage.

Questions About Single Christians

- ***Why might one be single?***
- Sometimes, circumstances make being single the best choice.
 - Times of persecution - 1Cor. 7:25-28
 - Times of war, disaster, famine
- With so many possible reasons, we should be careful not to presume why one is single.

Questions About Single Christians

- ***Are there benefits to being single?***
 - Freedom from care in times of distress or persecution - 1Cor. 7:26-28, 32
 - Freedom to serve God - 1Cor. 7:32-35

Questions About Single Christians

- ***Are there disadvantages to being single?***
- Increased physical temptation
 - 1Cor. 7:8-9, 10:13
- Risk of overwhelming loneliness
- Potential for self-centeredness
- In spite of what zealous and misguided brethren may teach, there is no command for one to marry. While it is God's design, He will not judge and punish those who remain single.

Instructions For Single Christians

- Take advantage of being single
 - Use the freedom to increase your service to God - 1Cor. 7:32-35.
 - Don't be selfish with the extra time you may have.
 - Don't resent others who may not do as much as you because of their family obligations.

Instructions For Single Christians

- Watch out for dangers of being single.
 - Temptations - make an effort to develop a close relationship with the Lord.
 - Loneliness - accept invitations to be with others; make opportunities to be with others.
 - Self-centeredness - offer yourself in service to others; be flexible.

Instructions For Single Christians

- Remember that you are in the family of God.
 - You have many mothers, fathers, brothers, sisters, children; develop and maintain these relationships.
 - Mark 10:29-30 - “So Jesus answered and said, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My sake and the gospel's, who shall not receive a hundredfold now in this time--houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions--and in the age to come, eternal life.’”

Instructions For Married Christians

- Be accepting toward those who are single by choice.
 - If they have apostle Paul's gift of singleness, don't consider them strange.
 - Thank God for His diversity of gifts to His people.
 - Use the singles capacity for increased service to God.

Instructions For Married Christians

- Be understanding toward those who are single by circumstance.
 - The challenges they face are due to no choice of their own.
 - The temptations they face in living the single life are difficult enough without being treated as strange.
- Be sensitive toward all who are single, whether by choice or circumstance.
 - They are part of our family in Christ.
 - They need friendship and involvement in our activities.

Bible Instructions For Those Who Live Alone

- No matter what our station in life, God can give us the strength and wisdom to lead productive and joyful lives.
- If you are single, and your service to Christ has been hindered by misconceptions, either your own or those of others, put them aside and join together with us in the work of the Lord.