



Trustworthy Counsel for Singlehood and Marriage

1 Corinthians 7:25–40

***Paul gives trustworthy
counsel to help singles and
widows answer the question
of whether they should
marry.***

Trustworthy Counsel for Singlehood and Marriage

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I. Trustworthy Counsel for Singles (25–38)

A. Who is the Target Audience? (25a)

B. What is the Trustworthy Counsel? (25b–28a)

- 1. Singles, there is no command from the Lord on this issue (25)**
- 2. Singles, be content where you are (26–27)**
- 3. Singles, you do have freedom to marry (28a)**

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I. Trustworthy Counsel for Singles (25–38)

A. Who is the Target Audience? (25a)

B. What is the Trustworthy Counsel? (25b–28a)

C. What are the Important Factors? (26, 28b–25)

1. The Present Distress (26)

2. Marriage Brings Conflict (28)

3. Eternity is Coming (29–31)

4. Marriage Produces Distractions (32–35)

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I. Trustworthy Counsel for Singles (25–38)

A. Who is the Target Audience? (25a)

B. What is the Trustworthy Counsel? (25b–28a)

C. What are the Important Factors? (26, 28b–25)

D. What is the Specific Application? (36–38)

1. The man who does not have the gift of singleness should marry (36).

i. He doesn't have a firm conviction.

ii. He doesn't have firm self-control

2. The man who does have the gift of singleness should remain as he is (37)

1. He does have a firm conviction.

2. He does have firm self-control.

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I. Trustworthy Counsel for Singles (25–38)

II. Trustworthy Counsel for Widows (39–40)

A. Widows are free to marry.

B. Widows must marry another believer.

C. Widows would be happier if they remained single.

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I. Maximizing your Singleness

- **Consider whether you have the gift of singleness**
 - Are you firm in your conviction?
 - Are you able to maintain self-control?
- **If yes...Use your singleness to the Glory of God**
 - Devote your extra time to bible study and prayer.
 - Devote your extra time to serving in the ministries of the church.
 - Devote your extra time to evangelism and missions.
 - Devote your extra resources to supporting the work of the local and global church.
- **If no...**
 - Be content, don't worry about it
 - Wait for the right spouse
 - Prepare yourself for your spouse
 - Use your singleness to the glory of God

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I. Maximizing your Singleness

II. Maximizing your Marriage

- **Secure your devotion to Christ**
- **Serve your spouse so their interests might first and foremost be devoted to Christ**
- **Strive to be a team that maximizes your marriage to bear the most fruit**
- **Strain towards holiness and Spur your spouse onward as well**
- **Plan:**
 - **Is our marriage distracting us from Christ?**
 - **How can I do better to secure in your heart a greater interest in Christ?**
 - **Where can we better work as a team to build the church?**
 - **Is there anyway I can do better to spur you onward toward personal holiness?**