

## The One: Single 1 Corinthians 7

From Singleness to Dating and Marriage, God has provided principles for our pursuit of the One. Today we're looking at the season of singleness that everyone experiences at some point in their lives. As we long for relationship, how do we live?

For me the real evil of masturbation would be that it takes an appetite which, in lawful use, leads the individual out of himself to complete and correct his own personality in that of another...

[Masturbation] turns it back; sends the man back into the prison of himself, there to keep a harem of imaginary brides... Among those shadowy brides he is always adored, always the perfect lover; no demand is made on his unselfishness...

In the end, they become merely the medium through which he increasingly adores himself... After all, almost the main work of life is to come out of our selves, out of the little dark prison we are all born in...

The danger is that of coming to **love the prison**.

C.S. Lewis

For by grace you are **saved through faith**, and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God; it is not from works, so that no one can boast.

For we are his workmanship, having been created in Christ Jesus for good **works** that God **prepared beforehand** so we may do them.

Ephesians 2:8-10

To the unmarried and widows I say that it is **best for them to remain** as I am. But if they do not have self-control, let them **get married**. For it is better to marry than to **burn** with sexual desire.

1 Corinthians 7:8-9

And I want you to be **free from concern**. An unmarried man is concerned about the things of the Lord, how to **please the Lord**. But a married man is concerned about the things of the world, how to **please his wife**, and he is **divided**. An unmarried woman or a virgin is concerned about the things of the Lord, to be holy both in body and spirit. But a married woman is concerned about the things of the world, how to **please her husband**.

1 Corinthians 7:32-34

I am saying this for your benefit, not to place a limitation on you, but so that **without distraction** you may give notable and **constant service** to the Lord.

1 Corinthians 7:35

Then I heard what sounded like the voice of a vast throng, like the roar of many waters and like loud crashes of thunder. They were shouting: "Hallelujah! For the Lord our God, the All Powerful, reigns!

Let us rejoice and exult and give him glory, because the **wedding celebration** of the **Lamb** has come, And his bride has made herself ready. She was permitted to be dressed in bright, clean, fine linen"

Revelation 19:6-8