

## **“Undivided Devotion”** **I Corinthians 7:25-40**

**Paul’s Pastoral Advice (7:25-28a)...** Paul encouraged the unmarried Corinthian Christians to embrace celibacy for practical purposes if they were able, but he did not agree with those in Corinth who required it for spiritual purposes.

**Paul’s Reason for Singleness (7:28b-35)...** Paul encouraged celibacy in order to aide Christians in living an undistracted life fully devoted to Christ. He encouraged this kind of radical devotion because he knew that the time would be short before Christ’s return.

**Marriage is no Sin (7:36-40)...** The Bible is consistently positive about the institution of marriage and Paul though seeing the practical benefits of singleness encouraged those who desire to marry to go ahead without any fear that they are sinning or that they are inferior to those who do not marry.

**The Overarching Principle (7:29-31)...** Paul’s primary point in this passage is that whether one marries or not, the cares of this world must take a definite back seat to Kingdom priorities. Though Christians live in the world and use the world, they should not become engrossed and absorbed in this world that is passing away.

### **Questions for Reflection:**

1. How can you be more undivided in your devotion to Christ?
2. If single, how are you using this to serve Jesus?
3. If married, how are you using this to serve Jesus?
4. How are you tempted to become absorbed in this world?
5. How can we live with an awareness that time to serve Christ is very short?