















Background – 1 Corinthians 7:1-2

- The City Corinth, was a hub of commerce, dedicated to the Greek goddess Aphrodite.
- The Church the Corinthian Church,
 had major <u>problems</u>, <u>divisions</u>, <u>lawsuits</u>,
 and <u>confusion</u>.

Background – 1 Corinthians 7:1-2

The Books – 1 & 2 Corinthians are from a series of letters to and from Paul.

- **The Chapters** – Answering <u>specific</u> <u>questions</u> some in the church had.

- **The Verses** – Addressing questions from the <u>ascetic wing</u> of the Church.

General – 1 Corinthians 7:8-9, 17

Paul's advice here is <u>practical</u> over <u>theological</u>, recognizes the <u>strengths</u> and <u>weaknesses</u> of both <u>marriage</u> and <u>singleness</u>.

The Emphasis is on the calling/Gift of God!

Gift of being single

Gift of marriage

Building up of the Church/Kingdom

"Cannot exercise self-control"

– where would singleness <u>lead you?</u>

<u>Closer</u> to God or <u>Away</u> from God into <u>sexual immortality</u>?

No advantage in celibacy if that is not your <u>Calling/Gift</u>.

Marital Status --> Either way IT IS A GIFT!!!

Verse 17 – Is all about <u>being a Christian</u> where you are.

No person should <u>attempt</u> to <u>walk</u> a <u>path</u> of life for which they are <u>naturally unfit</u>.

Specific - 1 Corinthians 7:32-34, 38

The Gift of being Single is <u>freedom</u> from <u>earthly anxieties</u>, to completely <u>focus</u> on <u>God's Kingdom</u> (*Proverbs 14:4*)

Matthew 6:33 – Seek first the Kingdom of God.

This is a Command from Jesus – being single gives you an advantage

Seek God's Kingdom.

Live in your <u>calling/giftedness</u>.