

# **DIRTY** CHURCH

## To Marry or Not to Marry

Dr. Jeff Bucknam | 1 Corinthians 7:25–38

1. How do Christians tend to view singleness in general? What do we believe to be good about it? What's hard about it? Do we tend to believe it is a burden to carry or an opportunity to exploit? Why?

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2. When you were single (or if you currently are), how did you view marriage? What did you think marriage was going to do for you? If you're married, how were you right and how were you wrong about your expectations?

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3. How are single people at an advantage over married people when it comes to serving Christ? If you were on a search committee looking for a pastor, would you prefer a married man or a single man as a better candidate? Why?

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4. Do you think Christians today tend to be more earthly focused so they're "no heavenly good" or too heavenly focused so they're "no earthly good"? In what ways are both of these a danger? Which side would you rather err on? Why?

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5. How does the imminent return of Christ and the knowledge that the time is short for him to come back influence the way we see our lives between now and then? How should our views about marriage be affected? About our possessions? About how we spend our money? About our sadnesses and joys?

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6. How would you counsel a young couple who were struggling with sexual temptation toward one another? You want them to remain pure before God, but you also are wary of them jumping into the covenant of marriage based on sexual desire that will fade a bit over time. What would you tell them to do? Why?

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7. 1 Corinthians 7:39 says that marriage ought to be "in the Lord." What are the dangers of dating and marrying an unbeliever? Have you seen marriages of an unbeliever to a believer that have gone well? Have you seen ones that have gone poorly? How did they go well and how did they go poorly? How would you advise a Christian who was in such a relationship?

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Passages Cited in the Sermon... 1 Corinthians 7:6-9, 7:39