

## WEEK 7 - OCTOBER 30, 2016

**Sermon Title: Better**

**Sermon Passages: *Isaiah 56:1-7; Matthew 19:11-12***

**Life Group Passage: *1 Corinthians 7:1-40***

**Big Idea: *Marriage is not the goal; likeness to Christ is the goal.***

### Themes:

- Not only does singleness have purpose in this world, but it carries a blessing equal to or greater than marriage. The Bible advocates for singleness as a way to more exclusively serve God's Kingdom and grow in holiness.
- Part of God's design in marriage is to use your spouse to conform you into His image. Marriage is a process of holiness.
- Success in marriage is not just avoiding divorce, but always moving toward oneness. You will have to continue to fight for everything you have gained. Marriage is hard, but diligence in marriage will result in joy and oneness as we wait on the Lord to complete His work.

### GENERAL DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Growing up, what was your predominant view of singleness in relation to marriage? How did it affect (or is it still affecting) your desires and your dating lifestyle?
- Paul points out in verses 29-31 that we can sometimes take our values from the "world which is passing away." How have those values infiltrated your own thinking about relationships, particularly marriage (or potential marriage)?
- Paul walks a tightrope between advocating singleness over marriage or marriage over singleness. Try to summarize his arguments for each position, paying close attention to the entire chapter, but especially verse 35.
- How can you use these biblical principles to come alongside a friend's struggling marriage or relationship?

### MARRIAGE DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- **READ** 1 Corinthians 7:35. What does an undivided devotion look like between you and your spouse?
- How is marriage related to holiness? How does God sanctify us through marriage?

### ACTION ITEM

- As we've come to the end of our #RelationshipGoals series, spend some time with your spouse going back through the previous weeks - the teaching, your major takeaways, the action you took (or planned to).
  - What has changed for you individually and as a couple?
  - What action do you still need to take? (Don't use this as a time for guilt or judgment but to "help" summarize and make a plan.)
  - Who will help you as individuals and as a couple to move forward with your plan? What can/will you do to engage them?
  - Take some time to pray together about these things, thanking the Lord, but also asking for His help, wisdom, guidance and strength moving forward.

## SINGLE DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Paul advocates for the single life. Do you see your single life as an opportunity for Gospel advancement?
- How is being single a blessing?
- What is God calling you to do in your singleness?