

By Love Set Free

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FREEDOM IN SINGLENESS

1 CORINTHIANS 7:6-9, 17-35

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God has an assignment and mission in life for a disciple of the Lord Jesus Christ:

- Long before salvation, God's hand has been upon a person preparing each for a life of influence for the Lord Jesus Christ and His Kingdom, vv. 17-24.
 - God has divided His people to different areas to maximize the influence of the Gospel in this life and called each to this new life in Christ where they are.
- The key issue for a disciple in life is not to seek a change in life's situation but to blossom and grow bearing fruit where the person is, remembering God is with them where they are, vv. 17-24.
 - If single, do not seek to be married. If married, do not seek to be single, vv. 6-9.
 - Live as one who has been redeemed by the Lord Jesus for a life fruitful for God, v. 23.
- The purpose of God is for a disciple to live a life fully devoted to the Lord Jesus Christ, fulfilling his or her assignment, calling, v. 35.

Remember life in this world will always fall short of desires and it is temporary and passing:

- Remember the time of this world is being shortened, vv. 29-31.
- Remember that life and relationships are difficult and they will always fall short in way, vv. 28, 32-35.

Remember the single life is the preferred one, marry only if you are absolutely convinced it is the will of God:

- All marriages are difficult and full of challenges though, for those He calls to marriage, His grace is enough, vv. 28, 32-35.
- God has assigned and called some to glorify Him as a single person.
- The single life is the preferred one as God is with him or her, and the focus is to live a life devoted to the Lord Jesus Christ, vv. 24, 35.

P A S T O R ' S C H A T

When John the Baptist was calling people to a baptism of repentance he talked of the Lord Jesus Christ who would come with a call to a different baptism. In Matthew 3:11, John the Baptist says, *“I baptize you with water for repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.”* We know as Christians that Jesus baptizes with the Holy Spirit who comes to dwell in us. But what does it mean that Jesus will baptize us with fire? Fire in the Bible speaks of passion. Fire speaks of the passion of a love for Jesus. Fire speaks of the purifying work of Jesus as we are in the process of transformation. Fire speaks of the Word of God alive in our lives filling us with passion to be like Jesus.

In many ways the challenge of living out our Christian life every day, is how to keep the passion of our love for Jesus alive and growing? How do we continue to let the passion for the refining fire do its purifying work in our lives? The Lord Jesus teaches us in Revelation 3:16 of the danger of being lukewarm in our passion for Jesus. The Lord Jesus warns us that in the last days the love for Jesus of many in the church would grow cold. He warns us in Matthew 24:12, *“And because lawlessness will be increased, the love of many will grow cold.”* So how do we keep the fire of passion for the Lord Jesus from growing lukewarm or cold?

Revive is a ten week journey we want to take together at RHCC, individually and together, to keep the fire of our passion alive and growing. It will start the week after Easter. The Bible teaches us of the importance of the influence we have on one another. It's hard to keep the fire going alone. Joining together as a church family gives the chance for God to move us in powerful ways. We want to join together to build the fire of passion for Jesus and the passion to be like Him to increasing levels.

The great news about *Revive* is that we know it is something God wants to do in our hearts and lives. As we humbly come and seek Him, God has promised He will revive us. The Bible says in Isaiah 57:15, *“For thus says the One who is high and lifted up, who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: ‘I dwell in the high and holy place, and also with him who is of a contrite and lowly spirit, to revive the spirit of the lowly, and to revive the hearts of the contrite.’”* Isn't that amazing, God wants to revive us if we humbly come. Join fully in *Revive* and seek Him, with the prayer, “Lord revive me.”

~ Senior Pastor Byron MacDonald