



Feb 4,  
2018

## BELONG

Name some famous couples from television shows. Which were your favorite? Least favorite? Why? Were these couples single or married? How has television portrayed single and married couples? How has this changed over the past half century?

## GROW

1. Consider 1 Corinthians 7. Why is the context of 1 Corinthians 7 important to understanding Paul's letter as corrective? What was the purpose of this letter? How should its context and purpose inform our understanding of this letter? Why should we be careful in our interpretation of this chapter?
2. Looking at 1 Corinthians 7, what two moral options does Paul present concerning sexual relations for a Christian individual? How does this compare to the options presented by the surrounding culture?
3. Read 1 Corinthians 7:7. Is this verse a command to remain unmarried? Why or why not? How does context apply to this verse? In what ways does this verse pertain, or not pertain, to our current culture and situation?
4. Considering 1 Corinthians 7:7, and 32-35, in what ways is singleness a gift? In what ways is singleness a stewardship? How can singleness serve a purpose? If you are single, consider how singleness has enabled you to serve in ways that might not be possible if you were married. If you are married, consider how your service differs from how you served in the past as a single person.
5. Read 1 Corinthians 6: 18-20, 7:9, and 36. Why should single people maintain sexual purity? How does the way that one handles their sexuality reflect their character?
6. Look at 1 Corinthians 10:31. What is your primary purpose as a believer in Christ? How can you use your marital status, whether single or married, to bring glory to God?

## REACH

Looking at 1 Corinthians 7 verses 1, 9, 12-14, and 36, what specific views about sexuality, singlehood, marriage, and divorce had the church in Corinth embraced? How was this church influenced by its surrounding culture? How has our modern church been influenced by our surrounding culture? Compare and contrast a Christian view of sexuality, singlehood, marriage and divorce to the culture's view of marriage.

## GOING DEEPER

Consider 1 Corinthians 7. If you are single, how are you making the most of your single status to serve Christ? If you are married, how are you making the most of your married status to serve Christ?

\*Use of a good study Bible is recommended to help understand the historical context and purpose of 1 Corinthians 7.