

Securing an Undivided Devotion—1 Cor. 7:25-40

- **Intro:**
 - Are you distracted? Focus, intentionality is so hard. A million things everywhere are vying for our thoughts, attention and affection.
 - We call it multi-tasking but, really it is just doing a bunch of things with mediocre quality!
 - Undivided Devotion—the people at the NCState and UNC games last week!
- **A Pastoral Passage**
 - Paul says, there are no commands from Christ here. This is good, wise, pastoral advice given your current distress and crisis!
 - Marriage and singleness are a matter of wisdom and walking in obedience to the call of God on YOUR life. Singleness is not morally superior nor is marriage—each has its place!
- **1 Main Point (v.35):**
 - **v.35—Read**
 - Regardless if you are married or single, God made you to follow him with undivided devotion.
 - God is glorified in our single-minded focus on him
 - May we save our greatest devotion for our greatest treasure!
 - Our joy is multiplied by our single-minded focus on him
 - **Psalm 86:11-12—Teach me your way, O Lord, that I may walk in your truth; unite my heart to fear your name. I give thanks to you, O lord my God, with my whole heart, and I will glorify your name forever.**
- **2 Pastoral Encouragements:**
 - **Singles: Watch Out for Distractions**
 - **“consider the present distress”**
 - Persecution, Famine or Both—people were being murdered, burned alive, starved to death and dying all over the place.
 - **Think Wisely about pursuing Marriage**
 - Not sure if now is the best season for marriage.
 - Consideration—is this the best season to consider marriage?
 - Debt, sickness, new believer, sexual enslavement, sinful habits, in school?
 - **Application:**
 - **Distracted by your singleness**—this is you if, when you think about yourself, the first thing you think is, “Hi, my name is Alex and I’m single.”
 - Your marital status is a PART of you...it doesn’t define you.
 - **Distracted by your passions (v.36)**
 - Sin has a unique way of weaseling into the life of someone who is single b/c they can slip far more easily into isolation.
 - Thoughts to Consider:
 - **Use this season to cultivate deep devotion and affection for Jesus.**
 - **Use this season to motivate radical obedience to move the Kingdom forward!**
 - **Married Couples: Watch Out for Distractions**
 - It is not sinful to pursue marriage, but it will come with more temptations to distraction
 - You will have to think even more strategically and sacrificially in order to live this out!
 - **Application:**
 - The needs of your spouse can distract you

- Your obligations as a parent can distract you
- **Thoughts to Consider:**
 - **Align your hearts so that serving each other doesn't distract you from serving Jesus**
 - v.33-34—But the married man is anxious about worldly things, how to please his wife, and his interests are divided.
 - **Include your kids in this journey so that loving and serving them doesn't distract you from serving Jesus.**
 - Huge plug for living YOUR life on mission for Jesus—God has uniquely wired and gifted you and your children to put you in unique places around unique people for the sake of the gospel!
- **Closing:**
 - **To singles:**
 - Consider your season of life and whether marriage is best
 - Recognize that you have a unique ability to serve King Jesus with undivided devotion
 - Look to Jesus, a single man, who laid down his rights and preferences for the sake of God's will.
 - **To married folk:**
 - Recognize that your season of life will make it more difficult to fight through distraction
 - God has given you unique opportunities among unique people to live your life with your spouse (and kids) in undivided devotion to King Jesus.
 - Look to Jesus who, with his love and sacrifice for us, has set an example of how to image him, obey him and enjoy him fully as we put His grace on display in our marriages.
 - What we need in this day and time is a group of people far more concerned about the glory of God in their lives than their marital status! A people consumed and devoted with hearing from and following Jesus, not consumed and constricted by a marital status.