

## Course outline

### **Foundations**

- Week 1: Man and Woman in Creation: Equality, Fertility, and Complementarity
- Week 2: Man and Woman in Creation: A Biblical Theology of Beautiful Difference
- Week 3: Man and Woman in a Fallen World
- Week 4: Man and Woman in Christ
- Week 5: Man and Woman in the Modern World

### **Applications**

- Week 6: The Meaning of Sex
- Week 7: Singleness and Marriage**
- Week 8: Parenting
- Week 9: The Church (Part 1)
- Week 10: The Church (Part 2)
- Week 11: Work

### **Apologetics**

- Week 12: Answering Common Questions
- Week 13: The Goodness and Beauty of God's Design

Questions? E-mail [bobby.jamieson@capbap.org](mailto:bobby.jamieson@capbap.org) or [paul.billings@campusoutreach.org](mailto:paul.billings@campusoutreach.org)

### **Suggested reading / Listening**

- Barry Danylak, *Redeeming Singleness*
- Sam Alberry, *7 Myths About Singleness*
- “On Thriving During Singleness (with Emily Davis),” Priscilla Talk podcast
- Steven L. Nock, *Marriage in Men's Lives*
- CHBC Cultural Mandate Talks (Members Section)
- Ray Ortlund, *Marriage and the Mystery of the Gospel*
- Danielle Treweek, *The Meaning of Singleness*

## CHBC Core Seminars

### **Man and Woman in Christ** *Week 7*



## **Singleness and Marriage**

### **Introduction**

The early church's singleness & re-marriage counterculture

“Marriage shows us the *shape* of the gospel, and singleness shows us its *sufficiency*.” (Sam Alberry)

### **I. Singleness: What is given up, gained, and gifted**

#### *1. Matthew 19:9-12*

What is given up?

- Heirs
- Status

What is gained?

- Heavenly honor (Matthew 19:13-15, Isaiah 54:6-7)

What is gifted to the church?

- An example of loyalty
- A living testimony of the values & rewards of the kingdom
- A witness to the end. Singles “tell us what time it is.”
- A reminder of our growth strategy

## 2. 1 Corinthians 7

What is given up?

- Sexual activity (1 Corinthians 7:1-9)

*Paul's gift: a supernatural equipping for celibacy so that he can give himself contentedly and completely to God and his people.*

What is gained?

- Freedom (7:32)
- Focus (7:34)
- Flexibility (7:34-35)

What is gifted to the church?

- A stronger witness
- A higher spiritual temperature
- Kingdom impact

## II. Marriage: What is pictured and prescribed

Wholehearted involvement: "But the married man is anxious about worldly things, how to please his wife, and his interests are divided." (1 Corinthians 7:33)

*Ephesians 5:22-33 & 1 Peter 3:1-7*

What is pictured?

- Marriages are to represent, embody, and exemplify the mystery of the gospel. (5:32)

What is prescribed?

- A dynamic of "profound asymmetrical reciprocity"
  - Husband and wife are not interchangeable

- Authority (of counsel) and submission (5:22-24)
- Love, warmth, affection, respect (5:25-33)

*Question for the class: Why must husbands in particular love their wives and wives in particular respect their husbands?*

## III. Lessons and Takeaways

1. *Live as you are called (1 Corinthians 7:17, Romans 5:3-4)*

2. *If you can wisely change your circumstances, you are free to (1 Corinthians 7:21, 36-38)*

3. *Married couples should see their difference as a stage for God's glory*

5 encouragements:

- Before you complain about who your spouse is *not*, start by celebrating who they *are*.
- Before you demand to *be* understood, start by desiring to understand.
- Many of the marriage problems we take *personally* are actually *predictable* in light of our difference in design.
- Seek to consistently communicate a desire *for each other*, not a demand on each other.
- Learn to *love how they typically like*, and *like how they typically love*.