*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 or 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*CHBCCore 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.*