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It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and of a kind that is not tolerated even among pagans, for a man has his father's wife.

—I Corinthians 5:1 ESV

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<sup>1</sup>Now concerning the matters about which you wrote: "It is good for a man not to have sexual relations with a woman." <sup>2</sup>But because of the temptation to sexual immorality, each man should have his own wife and each woman her own husband.

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<sup>3</sup>The husband should give to his wife her conjugal rights, and likewise the wife to her husband. <sup>4</sup>For the wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband does. Likewise the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife does.

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<sup>5</sup>Do not deprive one another, except perhaps by agreement for a limited time, that you may devote yourselves to prayer; but then come together again, so that Satan may not tempt you because of your lack of self-control. <sup>6</sup>Now as a concession, not a command, I say this.

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<sup>7</sup>I wish that all were as I myself am. But each has his own gift from God, one of one kind and one of another. <sup>8</sup>To the unmarried and the widows I say that it is good for them to remain single, as I am.

—I Corinthians 7:1-8 ESV

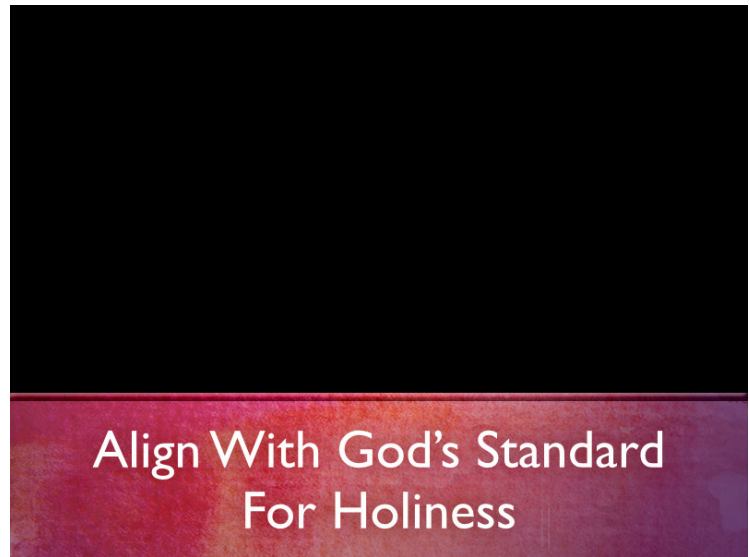
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WHAT IS YOUR STATUS?

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<sup>13</sup>...The body is not meant for sexual immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. <sup>14</sup>And God raised the Lord and will also raise us up by His power. <sup>15</sup>Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never!

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<sup>16</sup>Or do you not know that he who is joined to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For, as it is written, "The two will become one flesh." <sup>17</sup>But he who is joined to the Lord becomes one spirit with Him.

—I Corinthians 6:13b-17 ESV

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<sup>18</sup>Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body. <sup>19</sup>Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, <sup>20</sup>for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.

—I Corinthians 6:18-20 ESV

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...<sup>4</sup>that each one of you know how to control his own body in holiness and honor... <sup>7</sup>For God has not called us for impurity, but in holiness. <sup>8</sup>Therefore whoever disregards this, disregards not man but God, who gives His Holy Spirit to you. —I Thessalonians 4:4, 7-8 ESV

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“The most dangerous and deceitful thing any believer can do is to trivialize the value and usefulness of their body for the glory of God.”

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## Appreciate the Goodness of Singleness

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<sup>6</sup>Now as a concession, not a command, I say this. <sup>7</sup>I wish that all were as I myself am. But each has his own gift from God, one of one kind and one of another... <sup>26</sup>I think that in view of the present distress it is good for a person to remain as he is. <sup>27</sup>Are you bound to a wife? Do not seek to be free. Are you free from a wife? Do not seek a wife.

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<sup>28</sup>But if you do marry, you have not sinned, and if a betrothed woman marries, she has not sinned. Yet those who marry will have worldly troubles, and I would spare you that... <sup>32</sup>I want you to be free from anxieties. The unmarried man is anxious about the things of the Lord, how to please the Lord.

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<sup>35</sup>I say this for your own benefit, not to lay any restraint upon you, but to promote good order and to secure your undivided devotion to the Lord.

—I Corinthians 7:6-8, 26-28, 32, 35 ESV

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“Celibacy is a gift to be celebrated and directed for God’s glory.”

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“Why did the early church have this attitude? The Christian gospel and hope of the future kingdom de-idolized marriage. There was no more radical act in that day and time than to live a life that did not produce heirs. Having children was the main way to achieve significance for an adult, since children would remember you.

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They also gave you security, since they would care for you in old age. Christians who remained single, then, were making the statement that our future is not guaranteed by the family but by God.” —Timothy Keller

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“The Christian hope not only made it possible for singles to live fulfilled lives without spouse and children, but it also was an impetus for people to marry and have children and not be afraid to bring them into this dark world...

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for Christians do not place their hope in their children, but rather their children are a sign of their hope... that God has not abandoned this world.”  
—Stanley Hauerwas

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Affirm the Provision  
of Marriage

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Do not deprive one another, except perhaps by agreement for a limited time, that you may devote yourselves to prayer; but then come together again, so that Satan may not tempt you because of your lack of self-control. —1 Corinthians 7:5 ESV

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“Marriage is the God-designed and God-ordained institution defining the physical and intimate relationship between man and woman with a view to not only provide physical fulfillment, but taking the responsibility for a future family.”

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Let marriage be held in honor among all,  
and let the marriage bed be undefiled...

—Hebrews 13:4a ESV

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Applications for Those Affected  
by Loss and Brokenness

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I Corinthians 7:8-9

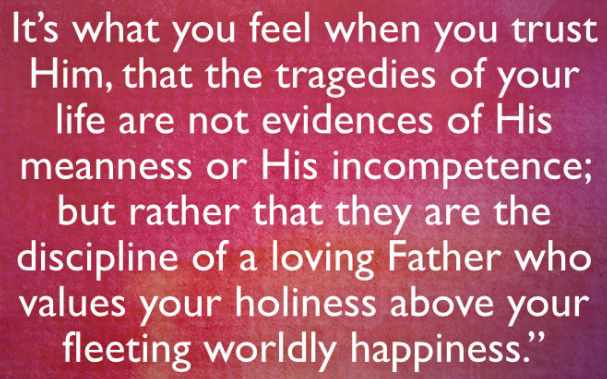
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I Corinthians 7:39-40

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“Gratitude is what you feel when you believe God is for you and not against you. It’s what you feel when you believe that He gives you only what is good for you and withholds no good thing (single or married).”

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It's what you feel when you trust  
Him, that the tragedies of your  
life are not evidences of His  
meanness or His incompetence;  
but rather that they are the  
discipline of a loving Father who  
values your holiness above your  
fleeting worldly happiness."

—John Piper

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