



1 CORINTHIANS

Chapter 7:32-40

³² I would like you to be free from concern. An unmarried man is concerned about the Lord's affairs—how he can please the Lord. ³³ But a married man is concerned about the affairs of this world—how he can please his wife— ³⁴ and his interests are divided. An unmarried woman or virgin is concerned about the Lord's affairs: Her aim is to be devoted to the Lord in both body and spirit. But a married woman is concerned about the affairs of this world—how she can please her husband. ³⁵ I am saying this for your own good, not to restrict you, but that you may live in a right way in undivided devotion to the Lord.

³⁶ If anyone is worried that he might not be acting honorably toward the virgin he is engaged to, and if his passions are too strong and he feels he ought to marry, he should do as he wants. He is not sinning. They should get married. ³⁷ But the man who has settled the matter in his own mind, who is under no compulsion but has control over his own will, and who has made up his mind not to marry the virgin—this man also does the right thing. ³⁸ So then, he who marries the virgin does right, but he who does not marry her does better.

³⁹ A woman is bound to her husband as long as he lives. But if her husband dies, she is free to marry anyone she wishes, but he must belong to the Lord. ⁴⁰ In my judgment, she is happier if she stays as she is—and I think that I too have the Spirit of God.

Whatever your life structure costs you,
give it faithfully — it belongs to the One
who bought you, and He deserves your
full attention.

ONE MASTER

The Cost, The Call, The Claim



1 Corinthians 7:32–40



THE COST

What Your Life Structure Actually Demands

It is not about ranking marriage against singleness. It is about honesty regarding where your attention goes. The question is not if you are devoted, but to whom.





“Merizō”

(Divided / Pulled Apart)



This is not a spiritual failing; it is the reality of love.
To love a spouse is to take on the cares of their world.

“Both roads are good. One carries more cargo.”





1 CORINTHIANS 7:32–35

1. **Unmarried man** — concerned about the Lord, how to please the Lord.
2. **Married man** — concerned about the world, how to please his wife — divided.
3. **Unmarried woman** — concerned about the Lord, holy in body and spirit.
4. **Married woman** — concerned about the world, how to please her husband.





THE CALL

What God Is Really After



Paul is not trying to restrict us. He is trying to free us.
He wants to remove the distractions so we can
offer undivided devotion.





The Mary Posture

It is not about detachment from the world, but where your primary attention rests. Martha loved the Lord, but her attention was pulled by the work. Mary found the "one thing."

Fully present at the Lord's feet.

THE CLAIM

Living as a believer in whatever situation the Lord has assigned to you.





MAKARIOS

(mak-ar'-ee-os)

Blessed; happy; held
by God in a place
circumstances
cannot reach.

The world sees a deficit (poor, mourning,
alone); God sees a position of power.



MAKARIOS (BLESSED)

Not just "happy." Held by God where circumstances cannot reach.

- Elisabeth Elliot: Widowed at 29. A single mother.
- She went back to the tribe that killed her husband to share the gospel.
- She was free to serve without divided attention.

The world called her a failure. God called her blessed.

IF MARRIED

Have one honest conversation—what owns our household right now? Give God the first of it, not the left-overs.



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IF SINGLE

You are not in a waiting room. You are Makarios. Do not waste your freedom. Elisabeth Elliot didn't.



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IF SINGLE

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FOR EVERYONE

Write down what has your attention. Then write: "This is not my master. The One who bought me is."

