
WOMEN OF THE NEW TESTAMENT SINGLE AND MARRIED WOMEN

Pray and ask God to help you to know Him better as you study His Word.

Read the Bible passage (preferably without using commentaries).

Begin to answer the questions using your own words.

Questions are based on the New International Version (NIV) 2011 edition.

LESSON 25

1. What truth, verse or insight from last week's study of **Eunice and Lois** was helpful to you?

SECTION I: Read 1 Corinthians 7:1-7

Note: In this letter to the Corinthian church, Paul was addressing confusion and dysfunction regarding sexual matters to both single and married believers.

2. Read **V1-4**. Comment on the counsel given to wives regarding their bodies?
3. a) From **V5-6**, what exception did he give and why?
b) Also, what caution did he give?
4. What do you think are the two "gifts" Paul is referring to in **V6-7**?
5. Paul affirmed the single life as a "gift." What are some practical ways we can affirm singles in this way?

SECTION II: Read 1 Corinthians 7:8-9, 25-38

6. Read **V8** together with **Genesis 2:18**. As you track the word "good," how do you reconcile these seemingly contradictory verses?
7. From **V26-27**, what else does Paul declare as "good"?
8. a) What is the hard truth about marriage expressed in **V28b**?
b) Why is this truth important to acknowledge if married **or** single

9. To what is Paul referring in **V29** when he states that the time is short? (See **Matthew 24:44**.)

10. a) According to **V29-31**, how is each group supposed to live in light of the shortness of time?

1. Those who _____
2. Those who _____
3. Those who _____
4. Those who _____
5. Those who _____

b) Why do you think Paul emphasized these contrasts in the middle of his counsel on married and single life, (especially in light of **V29a** and **31b**)?

11. Read **V32-35** and find the concerns and the aim for:

- a) a single believer
- b) a married believer

12. In your own words, what is Paul's chief desire for believers according to **V32a** and **35**?

13. a) How undivided are you in your devotion to the Lord? What present concerns compete most strongly with your devotion?

b) How do you balance the pulls of this world with the affairs of the Lord?

14. Read **V36-38** (see also **V9**). What was Paul's conclusion about getting married versus remaining single?

SECTION III: Read **Titus 2:1-5**

15. According to **V3**, Titus was to teach the older women to:

a) ...“be reverent.” What does “reverent” mean, and what are ways we can live as reverent women?

b) ...“not to be slanderers.” How do we women slander, and what are the ripple effects?

c) ...“not addicted to much wine.” How can believers keep this in check? How do you?

16. a) What are the six additional things older women are to teach the younger women in **V4-5?**

b) With which of these do you most struggle, and how could you benefit from training in this area?

17. How do you think the Word of God could be maligned or dishonored by the way the women of a church conduct themselves?

18. For those of you who are older women, how have you sought to influence the younger women God has placed in your life? For those of you who are the younger women, describe your relationship with the older women in the church.

19. a) The world offers enough “bad and ugly” examples of how to live as a single or married woman. What “good” counsel from Paul will you remember most and apply to your life?

b) Write a prayer asking for God’s help in that area.

DIGGING DEEPER

1. There are many examples of women living devoted as well as divided lives in the early church. Note the activities the women engaged in and whether or not they reflected a concern for the Lord’s affairs.

Luke 1:38-42 _____

Acts 1:14 _____

Acts 2:18, 21:8-9 _____

Acts 8:3 _____

Acts 8:12 _____

1 Timothy 2:9-10 _____

1 Timothy 5:11-13 _____

2 Timothy 3:6 _____

1 Peter 3:3-4 _____

2. Which of the above activities are lacking in your own life, and which of them dominate your time?

3. Suggested Memory Verse: **1 Corinthians 7:35**

