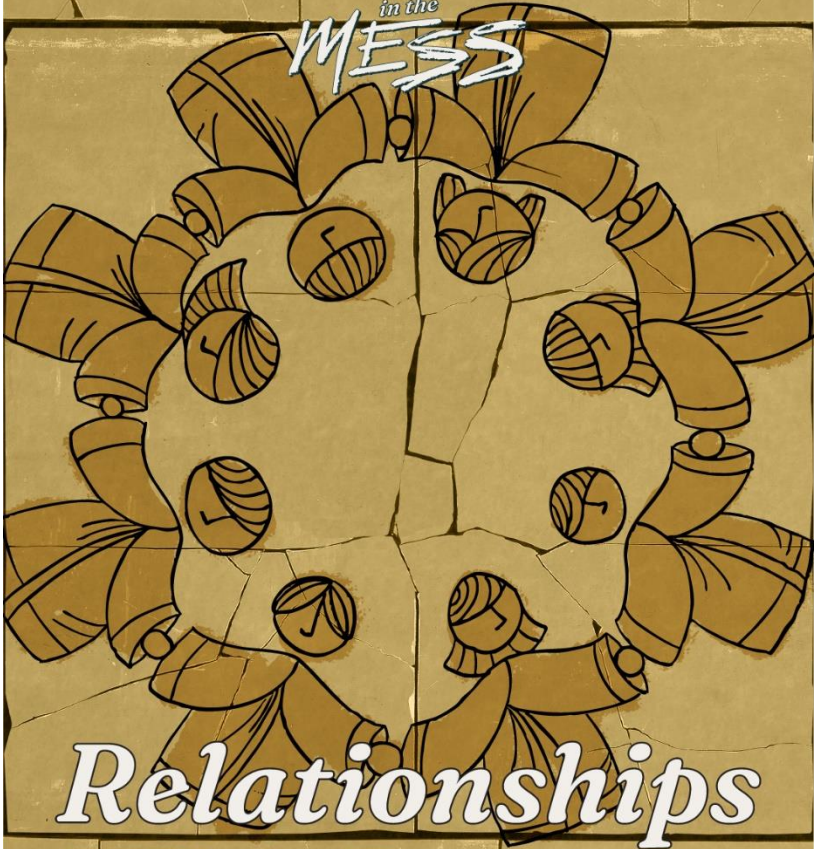


GRACE  
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*Relationships  
With Purpose*

# **Relationships With Purpose**

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**Sex, Marriage and Singleness  
in a Broken World**

## **Introduction**

In a world that constantly shifts and shakes, how do we live a life grounded in purpose, clarity, and peace? The Apostle Paul wrote to a young church in Corinth that was facing confusion, division, and relational complexity—much like today. Through his inspired words in 1 Corinthians 7, Paul delivers timeless wisdom for those navigating singleness, marriage, calling, and urgency. This book captures the heart of that message and helps apply it to our lives in practical, powerful ways.

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## **When Heaven Feels Delayed—Living with Eternal Urgency**

Paul opens 1 Corinthians 7 with what seems like an unexpected answer: *“It is good for a man not to marry.”* But he’s not dismissing the beauty of marriage—he’s highlighting a bigger issue: urgency. Paul genuinely believed Jesus could return at any moment, and that belief shaped his decisions and priorities.

What if we lived with that same expectation today?

What if we aligned every part of our lives with the possibility that Christ could return this week?

This kind of urgency reorders our values. It makes us prioritize people over possessions, purpose over popularity, calling over comfort.

Takeaway: Don’t wait for “someday” to get serious about your faith. Live like Jesus is coming back today—because He might.

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## **Embrace Where You Are—Contentment is a Calling**

Paul tells believers to remain in the situation they were in when God called them. Whether married or single, slave or free, Jewish or Gentile—your circumstance is not a limitation. It’s a location for God’s glory.

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Many people fall into the “*when-then*” trap:

- When I get married...
- When I retire...
- When I find the right person...

But Paul says: God can use you right now.

Even in hardship. Even in singleness. Even in struggle. Daniel was a slave. Joseph was a prisoner. Paul himself wrote most of his letters from prison.

Takeaway: Stop waiting for the perfect conditions to serve God. Your current season is your current mission field.

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### **Redefining Relationships—Marriage, Singleness & God's Design**

Paul's teaching on marriage and singleness is both practical and spiritual. He's not elevating one above the other; he's recognizing that each is a gift—and each has a purpose.

- Marriage is a reflection of God's covenant. It's about mutual sacrifice, not just satisfaction. Spouses are called to serve each other emotionally, spiritually, and physically.
- Singleness, when lived with contentment and focus, can be a powerful opportunity for undivided devotion to the Lord.

Paul even encourages those who are single to embrace their season fully—because of the freedom it gives to serve God without distraction.

Takeaway: Whether you're married or single, your life can radiate purpose when it's centered on Jesus.

### **Purpose Over Preference—Living Beyond the Temporary**

Paul reminds the church that this world, in its current form, is passing away. That means our ultimate calling is not to preserve comfort, but to pursue purpose.

If Jesus were coming back tomorrow, would that change how you spent today?

Would you forgive more quickly, love more deeply, or give more freely?

Living with eternal perspective means:

- Being bold in your faith
- Holding loosely to material things
- Prioritizing people over platforms
- Obeying God in the little things, every day

Paul wasn't guessing about the return of Christ—he was modeling what it looks like to live *ready*.

Takeaway: Eternal priorities should shape temporary decisions. Live for the mission, not just for the moment.

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### **Live Faithfully—Right Where You Are**

No matter your status—single, married, divorced, waiting—God has a plan for you. Paul's message to Corinth is the same for us:

“Godliness with contentment is great gain.” (1 Timothy 6:6)

So, live your faith boldly.

Embrace your current season fully.

Love those around you sacrificially.

And serve God wholeheartedly.

Because this world is not your home—and time is short.

Live like you believe that.

## **Your Life Is Not on Hold**

Maybe you're reading this feeling like your life is in limbo. You're waiting for a spouse. You're recovering from a divorce. You're feeling overlooked in ministry. Or maybe you're so overwhelmed by family and responsibility that the thought of "serving God" feels like one more burden.

Let Paul's words reframe your view:

You are not stuck.

You are not forgotten.

You are not disqualified.

You are right where God can meet you, shape you, and use you.

In 1 Corinthians 7, Paul isn't trying to prescribe a perfect formula for everyone. He's urging us to live awake. To see the urgency of the gospel, the value of our season, and the power of our calling.

So whether you're single or married, weary or hopeful, here's the truth:

You are needed. You are chosen. You are called.

Don't wait. Start now.

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## **Reflection Questions**

1. In what ways am I postponing obedience or service to God, waiting for life to "settle down"?
2. Do I view my singleness (or my marriage) as a burden or as a blessing? Why?
3. What would change in my daily life if I lived with the belief that Jesus might return today?
4. How can I serve more fully in my current season instead of longing for a different one?

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5. Who in my life might be drawn to Jesus through my faithful presence?
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**Next Step: A Simple Prayer for Today**

*Lord, thank You for meeting me right where I am.*

*Help me to stop resisting my season and start embracing Your purpose.*

*Teach me to live with urgency, love with sacrifice, and serve with joy.*

*May my life reflect Your Kingdom—today, not someday.*

*Amen.*

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