

Ministry Priorities



Ladies Panel

But I want you to be free of concern. One who is unmarried is concerned about the things of the Lord, how he may please the Lord.
~ 1 Corinthians 7:32

I. Secular Work vs. Ministry

The woman who is unmarried, and the virgin, is concerned about the things of the Lord, that she may be holy both in body and spirit; but one who is married is concerned about the things of the world, how she may please her husband. This I say for your own benefit; not to put a restraint upon you, but to promote what is appropriate and to secure undistracted devotion to the Lord.

~ 1 Corinthians 7:34-35

II. Webster's Dictionary

Devotion: an act of prayer or private worship — usually used in a religious exercise or practice other than the regular corporate worship of a congregation, the fact or state of being ardently dedicated and loyal.

III. 3 Observations to Ponder

- One advantage of our gift of singleness:

“A single person is free from concern about the earthly needs of a spouse and therefore potentially better able to set himself apart exclusively for the Lord’s work”

~ MacArthur, NKJV Study Bible

- Is it true that single women have more opportunity to serve the Lord?

... The woman who is unmarried, and the virgin, is concerned about the things of the Lord, that she may be holy both in body and spirit; but one who is married is concerned about the things of the world, how she may please her husband.

~ 1 Corinthians 7:34

- Does marriage prevent devotion to the Lord?

“Marriage does not prevent great devotion to the Lord, but it brings more potential matters to interfere with it”

~ MacArthur, NKJV Study Bible

Duties and responsibilities as raising children, pleasing husband’s needs, homemaking, can interfere with a married woman’s time; on the other hand “singleness has fewer hindrances, though not guaranteed great spiritual virtue”
(MacArthur, NKJV Study Bible)

Whether married or single God intends for us to keep the eternal priority as our focus. Our ultimate priorities are to love and serve God.

IV. Questions:

- A. How do you make practical use of 1 Corinthians 7:32-35 and have “undistracted devotion” to the Lord while at the same time “making a living”?

Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

~ 1 Corinthians 10:31

- B. Should all single Christian women pursue full-time ministry before pursuing or considering secular careers or a job?

I will instruct you and teach you in the way which you should go;

~ Psalm 32:8a

- C. Is it legitimate to pursue prominent careers as a single Christian woman?

A man's gift makes room for him and brings him before great men.

~ Proverbs 18:16

D. What happens when church or ministry and work conflict?

*Make me to know Your ways, O LORD;
teach me Your paths.*

~ Psalm 25:4

E. When should you say “no”?

Trust in the LORD with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight.

~ Proverbs 3:5-6



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