

Don't Miss The Point

(Insights from 1 Corinthians 7:10-40)

Pastor Bob Johnson, Grace Point Church, November 15th, 2015

The Principle: Bloom ...

(1 Corinthians 7:1-40)

- **'Here' is the only ...**
(1 Corinthians 7:8, 10, 12-13, 18-19, Philippians 4:11-13)
- **'Here' comes ...**
(1 Corinthians 7:17, 20-22, 24, Philippians 2:12-15)
- **'Here' won't ...**
(1 Corinthians 7:29-31)

The Passage:

- **Advice to Singles: (v 8-9, 25-38)**
 - understand singleness is ...
 - understand singleness has ...
- **Advice to "Christian" couples (v 10-11, 39-40)**
 - if you are struggling ...
 - don't settle ...
- **Advice to "Mismatched" couples (v 12-16, 27-28)**
 - if you are struggling ...

"The Hedge Principle"
(Pv 14:26, Gen 8:18-19, Ezek. 22:23-31, Ps 106:19-23)

 - if you are left ...

What about divorce & remarriage?

(Malachi 2:13-16, Deut. 24:1-4, John 4:16-18, Mt 5:28-48, Mt 12:2-8)

This Week's Discussion Guide:

This is 'week 10' of our 11 weeks we will be getting together to pray for one another and study God's Word together. Our last meeting this quarter will be next week before we take a Holiday Break until January.

Getting Started:

Last Sunday's message from our study of 1 Corinthians focused on 'blooming where you are planted' and gave a few examples of where blooming (growing, serving) can take place. Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, what did you find most interesting, challenging or thought provoking?

Following up on Paul's main encouragement from 1 Corinthians 7:10-40, what are some signs that would lead you to believe a person is actually 'blooming' or experiencing contentment?

In Philippians 4:12, Paul said he learned to be content (engaging what was happening in a way that would further his growth and cooperation in what God wanted to accomplish) in a variety of circumstances. He had to learn contentment because it didn't come naturally. Can you think of a few things that make it hard to find contentment today?

Take a minute and think back on the various seasons of your life. Can you remember a time when you felt particularly content? What situations or experiences contributed to those feelings?

On the other hand, can you think of a time when you were not content? How do you think contentment could have been possible even in that situation?

Digging Deeper:

Last Sunday's message touched on divorce and remarriage, but Pastor Bob pointed out, the context of 1 Cor. 7:10-40 is primarily about contentment and blooming where we're planted - not on divorce and remarriage. That is why this discussion guide is focusing mostly on the contentment aspect of the passage.

1. King Solomon was a famous king who is remembered for the wisdom that God gave him about life. That makes him a pretty good source for insight into our own lives. Read about his journey to find meaning, happiness and contentment in Ecclesiastes 2:1-11. As you read about his quest, write down the things he pursued in his effort to find pleasure or contentment.

We still pursue many of the same things today. Can you think of a time when you finally achieved or owned something that didn't bring you the contentment you had hoped for?

How does Solomon's advice in Proverbs 23:4-5 and Jesus' words in Matthew 6:19-21 help you understand why these achievements, positions or possessions didn't truly satisfy?

How can an understanding of this temporary life and the reality of eternity and heaven help us 'bloom where we are planted'?

2. When life is good, being content with our assignments isn't all that difficult. But when our circumstances are tough, it's another story. What resources do you find in the following passages that can help you better cope with or even grow through a hard season in life?

John 14:25-27

Philippians 4:6-7

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

The Bible catalogs a rich history of lives being shaped in the midst of difficult situations. Read Acts 16:22-34 and identify how Paul and Silas leaned on these resources.

3. Part of blooming where we are planted is learning how to forgive. Joseph's life is a great example of what forgiveness looks like. He was deeply betrayed and nearly killed by his own brothers and then rose to a position of great leadership and power. Although he could have condemned his brothers, he showed them grace and mercy. Read Genesis 45:1-15.

Why do you think he was able to show his brothers this kind of grace and forgiveness?

What would it take for you to show the same kind of forgiveness to someone who has wronged or hurt you?

WRAPPING UP ...

Was there any advice from this week's teaching or passage that you need to give additional attention to?

Based on the message and our discussion, is there any specific application that God might be prompting you to live out this week?

What prayer requests can we share so we can pray for each other before we close and until our next small group meeting?