

Life Group/Bible Study Questions
Week following 11/01/26: 1 Corinthians 7:1-16
You each have your own gift

Introduction: Paul reminds the church that both marriage and singleness are gifts - different callings with equal value and purpose. He urges believers to embrace faithfulness in the season they are in, serving God and others with devotion and love.

Looking back: Share with one another about what you're thankful for since you last met

Read 1 Corinthians 7:1-16, then answer the following questions:

- a. (v7) **"Er... did you keep the receipt? Burial plot, toilet seat and a second-hand tumble dryer are revealed as Britain's worst-ever Christmas presents"** (Daily Mail 27/12/24) Not every gift is welcome. When Paul says in v7 that each of us has our own 'gift' from God, how does that idea land with you in the context of marriage and singleness? What difference does it make to see our life situation as something intentionally given by God rather than accidental or second best?
- b. (v1) **"Now for the matters you wrote about..."** Paul isn't writing to an idealised church with neat, tidy lives. He's writing to real believers with stories as complex as our own: some longing for marriage, others struggling within it or living with the pain of divorce, some grieving loss and others navigating life with unbelieving partners How does knowing Paul is responding to real questions from real people change the way you hear/read this chapter?
- c. (v7) **"Every good and perfect gift is from above..."** (James 1:17) **"But each of you has your own gift from God..."** Paul doesn't say that everyone likes their gift. He doesn't call singleness easy or marriage simple. Some gifts from God become clear only as we walk with Him, stretching us and forcing us to rely on Him. How have you seen this play out? Share your own experience if you feel able.
- d. (v12) **"If any brother has a wife who is not a believer and she is willing to live with him, he must not divorce her."** Some believers were wondering whether becoming a Christian meant distancing themselves from unbelieving spouses. There was OT precedent for this (see [Ezra 9-10](#)). Paul reminds us that marriage is intended to be permanent and of God's ability to work within imperfect/messy situations. How does that encourage/challenge us, not just in the context of marriage but in our wider relationships with non-Christian friends/family?
- e. **"The LORD is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth."** (Ps.145:18) Spend some time in silent reflection/prayer. This passage touches on issues that may be painful or sensitive. We may not want to share out loud. But God meets us where we are, not where we think we should be. If your 'gift' or situation feels heavy or unwelcome, bring that honestly to God. If your 'gift' or situation is welcome, take time to thank God for it.

Prayer

As well as praying for any particular requests from your group:-

- a. Thank God for the gifts He gives each of us, whether in singleness or marriage.
- b. Pray that God would help us to give ourselves to him and to lovingly give of ourselves to the other people in our lives
- c. Pray that God would strengthen us to live faithfully in the calling He has given us.