

KEC ORDER OF SERVICE/SERMON OUTLINE 21st March 2021 (KEC SERVICE Online)

Please take note that this Sunday's service begins at **8.30am**, not 9am.

We will not be showing any new Kids' Church Videos for the moment. Please do join one of our Sunday School groups instead! Contact Abang Trang for more info.

You can access the livestream at https://www.facebook.com/bemkec/live_videos/

Or on Youtube here: <https://youtube.com/bemkec/live>

8.30am – Livestream starts

Livestream link should be available by 8.25am latest.

1. CALL TO WORSHIP – Psalm 65

2. WORSHIP in SONG (with Daniel Langat)

SONG 1: Creation Awaits

SONG 2: To be pleasing you

3. Teaching video: Marriage as a trailer

4. Prayers

- World
- Nation
- Church

5. SONG 3: Speak O Lord

6. Bible reading: 1 Corinthians 7:1-40 (NIV2011)

⁷ Now for the matters you wrote about: “It is good for a man not to have sexual relations with a woman.” ² But since sexual immorality is occurring, each man should have sexual relations with his own wife, and each woman with her own husband. ³ The husband should fulfill his marital duty to his wife, and likewise the wife to her husband. ⁴ The wife does not have authority over her own body but yields it to her husband. In the same way, the husband does not have authority over his own body but yields it to his wife. ⁵ Do not deprive each other except perhaps by mutual consent and for a time, so that you may devote yourselves to prayer. Then come together again so that Satan will not tempt you because of your lack of self-control. ⁶ I say this as a concession, not as a command. ⁷ I wish that all of you were as I am. But each of you has your own gift from God; one has this gift, another has that.

⁸ Now to the unmarried^[a] and the widows I say: It is good for them to stay unmarried, as I do. ⁹ But if they cannot control themselves, they should marry, for it is better to marry than to burn with passion.

¹⁰ To the married I give this command (not I, but the Lord): A wife must not separate from her husband. ¹¹ But if she does, she must remain unmarried or else be reconciled to her husband. And a husband must not divorce his wife.

¹² To the rest I say this (I, not the Lord): If any brother has a wife who is not a believer and she is willing to live with him, he must not divorce her. ¹³ And if a woman has a husband who is not a believer and he is willing to live with her, she must not divorce him. ¹⁴ For the unbelieving husband has been sanctified through his wife, and the unbelieving wife has been sanctified through her believing husband. Otherwise your children would be unclean, but as it is, they are holy.

¹⁵ But if the unbeliever leaves, let it be so. The brother or the sister is not bound in such circumstances; God has called us to live in peace. ¹⁶ How do you know, wife, whether you will save your husband? Or, how do you know, husband, whether you will save your wife?

¹⁷ Nevertheless, each person should live as a believer in whatever situation the Lord has assigned to them, just as God has called them. This is the rule I lay down in all the churches. ¹⁸ Was a man already circumcised when he was called? He should not become uncircumcised. Was a man uncircumcised when he was called? He should not be circumcised. ¹⁹ Circumcision is nothing and uncircumcision is nothing. Keeping God's commands is what counts. ²⁰ Each person should remain in the situation they were in when God called them.

²¹ Were you a slave when you were called? Don't let it trouble you—although if you can gain your freedom, do so. ²² For the one who was a slave when called to faith in the Lord is the Lord's freed person; similarly, the one who was free when called is Christ's slave. ²³ You were bought at a price; do not become slaves of human beings. ²⁴ Brothers and sisters, each person, as responsible to God, should remain in the situation they were in when God called them.

²⁵ Now about virgins: I have no command from the Lord, but I give a judgment as one who by the Lord's mercy is trustworthy. ²⁶ Because of the present crisis, I think that it is good for a man to remain as he is. ²⁷ Are you pledged to a woman? Do not seek to be released. Are you free from such a commitment? Do not look for a wife. ²⁸ But if you do marry, you have not sinned; and if a virgin marries, she has not sinned. But those who marry will face many troubles in this life, and I want to spare you this.

²⁹ What I mean, brothers and sisters, is that the time is short. From now on those who have wives should live as if they do not; ³⁰ those who mourn, as if they did not; those who are happy, as if they were not; those who buy something, as if it were not theirs to keep; ³¹ those who use the things of the world, as if not engrossed in them. For this world in its present form is passing away.

³² I would like you to be free from concern. An unmarried man is concerned about the Lord's affairs—how he can please the Lord. ³³ But a married man is concerned about the affairs of this world—how he can please his wife— ³⁴ and his interests are divided. An unmarried woman or virgin is concerned about the Lord's affairs: Her aim is to be devoted to the Lord in both body and spirit. But a married woman is concerned about the affairs of this world—how she can please her husband. ³⁵ I am saying this for your own good, not to restrict you, but that you may live in a right way in undivided devotion to the Lord.

³⁶ If anyone is worried that he might not be acting honorably toward the virgin he is engaged to, and if his passions are too strong^[b] and he feels he ought to marry, he should do as he wants. He is not sinning. They should get married. ³⁷ But the man who has settled the matter in his own mind, who is under no compulsion but has control over his own will, and who has made up his mind not to marry the virgin—this man also does the right thing. ³⁸ So then, he who marries the virgin does right, but he who does not marry her does better.^[c]

³⁹ A woman is bound to her husband as long as he lives. But if her husband dies, she is free to marry anyone she wishes, but he must belong to the Lord. ⁴⁰ In my judgment, she is happier if she stays as she is—and I think that I too have the Spirit of God.

Footnotes

- a. 1 Corinthians 7:8 Or widowers
- b. 1 Corinthians 7:36 Or *if she is getting beyond the usual age for marriage*
- c. 1 Corinthians 7:38 Or ³⁶ *If anyone thinks he is not treating his daughter properly, and if she is getting along in years (or if her passions are too strong), and he feels she ought to marry, he should do as he wants. He is not sinning. He should let her get married. ³⁷ But the man who has settled the matter in his own mind, who is under no compulsion but has control over his own will, and who has made up his mind to keep the virgin unmarried—this man also does the right thing. ³⁸ So then, he who gives his virgin in marriage does right, but he who does not give her in marriage does better.*

SERMON OUTLINE: Gifts from God – The Christian and sex (1 Cor. 7:1-9)

Do we ever say Yes?

The story of the Bible: a story about how God gives good gifts

Another Corinthian slogan: 7:1

<p>1 Corinthians 7:1 (NIV2011, NIV1984 footnote) Now for the matters you wrote about: "It is good for a man not to have sexual relations with a woman."</p>	<p>1 Corinthians 7:1 (NIV1984) Now for the matters you wrote about: It is good for a man not to marry</p>
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NIV2011 makes better contextual sense. For another simple and succinct explanation why the NIV2011 translation is to be preferred, see also John Richardson, *God, Sex & Marriage*, pp. 14-16

Why this slogan?

What 1 Corinthians 7 is going to be really all about:
how we glorify God with the gifts he's given us

What good gift has God given you? Whatever's been given, enjoy it!

1. If you've been given the gift of married life, enjoy it! (v.2-6)

Verse 2

Just do it!

An obligation (v.3). But...

It's not about you

Giving up your rights

The body & the marriage relationship

Conjugal giving

Both parties

Only one concession: v.5-6

Even then...

- Both agree
- Only for a time / Temporary

Enjoyment = protection (v.5b)

Not entitlement or excuse

If you've been given the gift of married life, enjoy it!

Reclaiming God's vision for sex

The reality of struggles

2. If you've been given the gift of the single life, welcome it! (v.7)

Every bit a gift as marriage is

What is the gift of singleness?

Popular definition: the "special ability that God gives to some members of the body of Christ to remain single and enjoy it; to be unmarried and not suffer undue sexual temptations." – Peter Wagner, *Your Spiritual Gifts can help your church grow*

A superpower?

The problem:

- Discerned based on subjective feelings. Imagine applying this logic to marriage
- Doesn't fit with how "gift" works in 1 Corinthians
- Devalues singleness in a way the Bible never does.

The gift of singleness: the marital status one happens to find themselves in at this present moment

But how is singleness *good*? (wait for 1 Cor 7.25-40 sermon, but for now...)

How singleness points to the gospel

"If marriage shows us the shape of the gospel, singleness shows us its sufficiency."
(Sam Allberry)

Why singleness is hard...

Marrieds, are you helping our single brothers and sisters appreciate their gift as good?

3. If you're taking what hasn't been given you, make it right! (v.8-9)

Traditional interpretation:

If you're single, better to remain unmarried, unless you can't control your sexual desires

Who is Paul actually addressing?

"Burn" (v.9)

Glorify God with what you've been given

Remember what each gift points to

Response: This is my desire

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Connect cards
- Giving
- Questions about sermon? Submit them at <https://bemkec.my/1CorQnA>
- Good Friday & Easter: EMPTY. Exact times to be confirmed.
 - April 2nd: The Empty Cup (Mark 10:32-45) Preaching: Pastor Brian
 - April 4th: The Empty Tomb (Matthew 28) Preaching: Yap Don Kiang
- Bible Overview Class – The book *God's Big Picture* is now available to be picked up by those who have ordered from the church office during office hours.
- *Putting Parenting to bed*: This video-based parenting course continues **today**, 10.30-11.30am, Zoom. Facilitators: Ong Chin Yin and Lynn Ngui.
- Prayer Meeting – on Zoom until further notice. Special prayer meeting (April 7th), with Pastor Wong Kuong Sii

BENEDICTION

- ³³ Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God!
How unsearchable his judgments,
and his paths beyond tracing out!
- ³⁴ "Who has known the mind of the Lord?
Or who has been his counsellor?"
- ³⁵ "Who has ever given to God,
that God should repay them?"
- ³⁶ For from him and through him and for him are all things.
To him be the glory forever! Amen.
- Romans 11:33-36