

1 Corinthians 7:1-16; 25-40

HOLINESS IN MARRIAGE & SINGLENES



1 CORINTHIANS

Paul responds to the
church at Corinth

Responding to issues reported by Chloe:

Divisions, wisdom, and the cross (1-4)

Immorality, lawsuits, and sexuality (5-6)

Responding to issues mentioned in the letter from Corinth:

Marriage and singleness (7)

Freedom, food, and idolatry (8-11)

Issues in worship (11-14)

The resurrection (15)

Generosity and closing (16)

1 Corinthians 7:1 ^{NIV}

Now for the matters you wrote about: *“It is good for a man not to have sexual relations with a woman.”*

QUESTIONS FROM THE SAINTS IN CORINTH:

Is it holier to be married or single?

Is sex sinful and to be avoided?

Is it good to want to be married?

Is it good to want to be single?

What if a spouse leaves a marriage?

What if a spouse is not a follower of Jesus?

Is it good for widows to remarry or stay unmarried?

HOLINESS IN RELATIONSHIPS

Godly wisdom in marriage, singleness,
divorce, and remarriage

Sex, Marriage, and Singleness: verses 1-9

Divorce and Remarriage: verses 10-16

Abide in all circumstances: verses 17-24 (next week)

Advice to Singles and Widows: verses 25-40

MARRIED

Marriage is a gift.

Sex is good in marriage. Each spouse should seek to fulfill each other's needs (1-5).

A tension will exist in time dedicated to the Lord and one another (32-35).

1 CORINTHIANS 7:1-7; 32-35

SINGLE

Singleness is a gift.

In Paul's opinion, it is better to remain single. If you have passion for sex, it is better to marry (6-9).

Singleness allows you to give yourself fully in serving the Lord (34).

1 CORINTHIANS 7:6-9, 25-40

DIVORCED

Seek to reconcile.

Jesus' teachings are our guide. If believers are separated, seek to reconcile (10-11).

If abandoned by an unbelieving spouse, you are no longer bound to the marriage (12-16).

1 CORINTHIANS 7:10-16

WIDOWED

Free to choose.

Widows are free to remarry, but Paul says it's a matter of personal choice (39).

In Paul's opinion, it is good to remain single (40).

1 CORINTHIANS 7:8, 39-40

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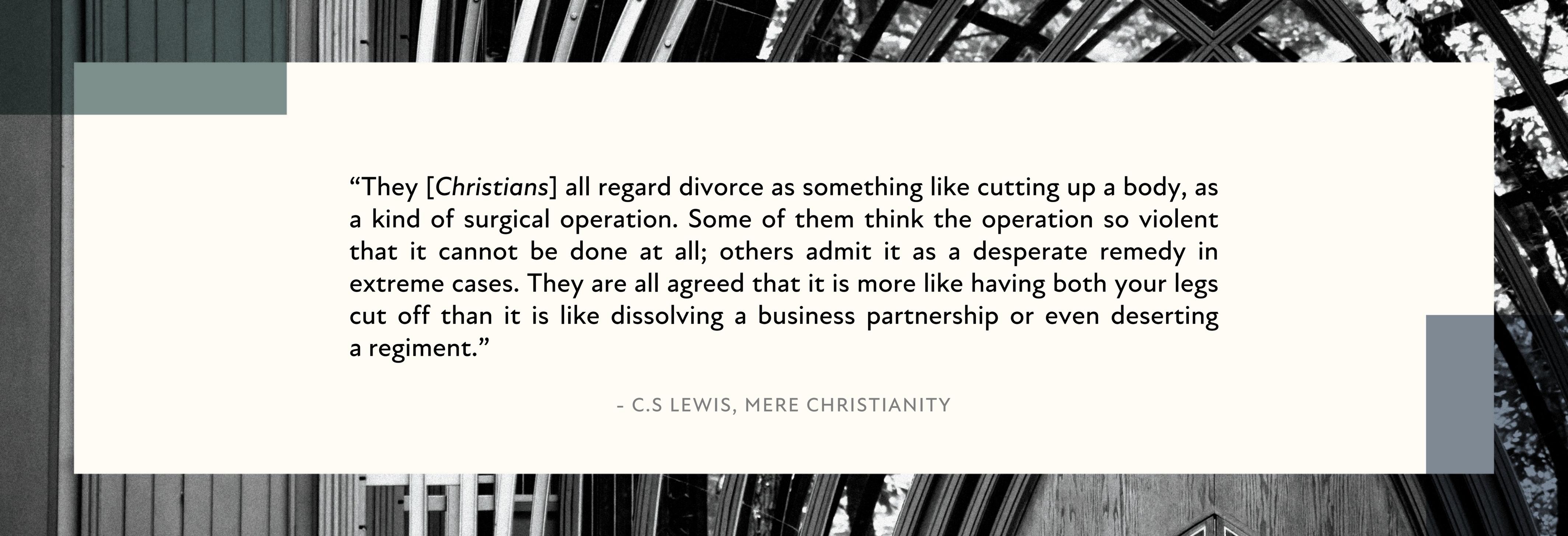
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“They [*Christians*] all regard divorce as something like cutting up a body, as a kind of surgical operation. Some of them think the operation so violent that it cannot be done at all; others admit it as a desperate remedy in extreme cases. They are all agreed that it is more like having both your legs cut off than it is like dissolving a business partnership or even deserting a regiment.”

- C.S LEWIS, MERE CHRISTIANITY

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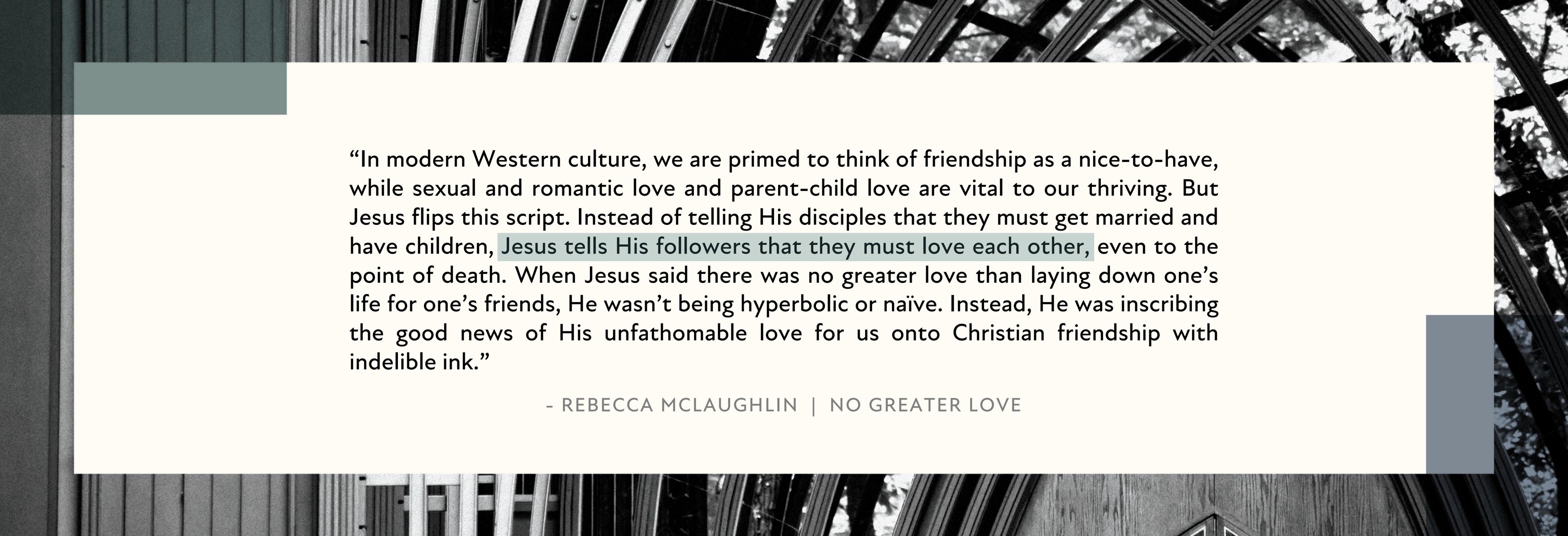
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“In modern Western culture, we are primed to think of friendship as a nice-to-have, while sexual and romantic love and parent-child love are vital to our thriving. But Jesus flips this script. Instead of telling His disciples that they must get married and have children, Jesus tells His followers that they must love each other, even to the point of death. When Jesus said there was no greater love than laying down one’s life for one’s friends, He wasn’t being hyperbolic or naïve. Instead, He was inscribing the good news of His unfathomable love for us onto Christian friendship with indelible ink.”

- REBECCA MCLAUGHLIN | NO GREATER LOVE

1 Corinthians 7:32-35 ^{NIV}

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.**

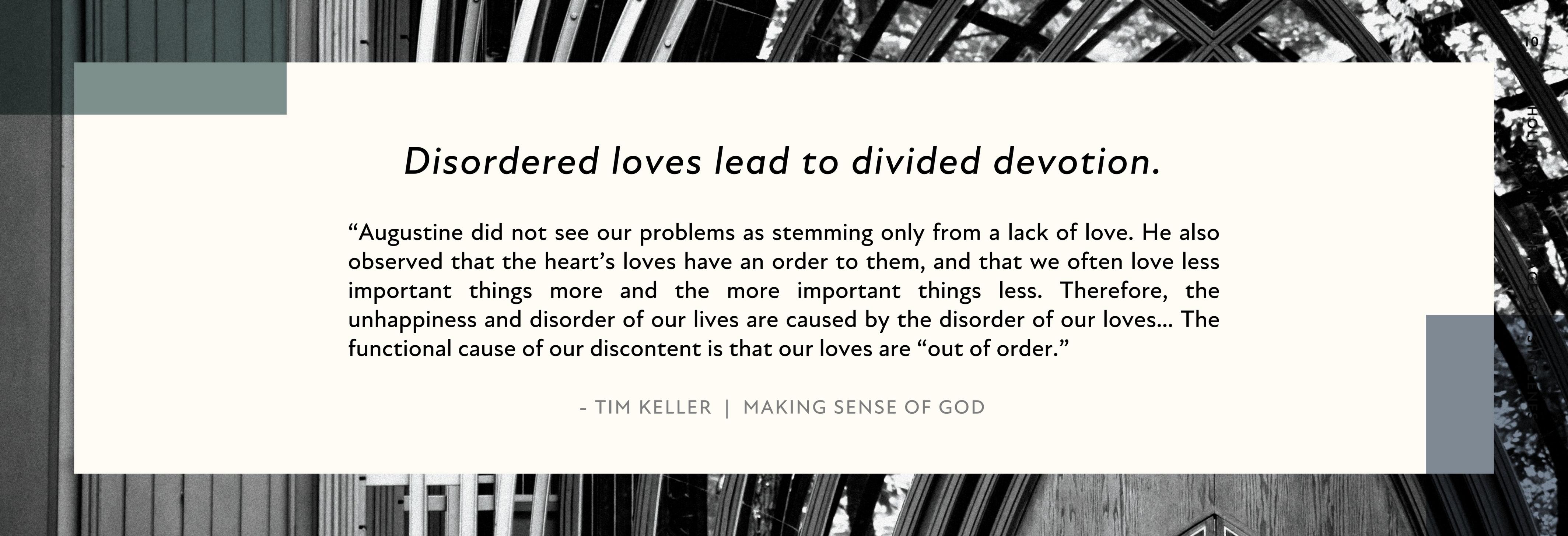
1 Corinthians 7:35 ^{NIV}

I am saying this for your own good, not to restrict you, but that you may live in a right way in undivided devotion [*sitting constantly by*] to the Lord.

1 Corinthians 7:32a-35 ^{MSG}

I want you to live as free of complications as possible.... All I want is for you to be able to **develop a way of life** in which you can spend plenty of time together with the Master without a lot of distractions.

No matter your relationship status,
live in undivided devotion to Jesus.



Disordered loves lead to divided devotion.

“Augustine did not see our problems as stemming only from a lack of love. He also observed that the heart’s loves have an order to them, and that we often love less important things more and the more important things less. Therefore, the unhappiness and disorder of our lives are caused by the disorder of our loves... The functional cause of our discontent is that our loves are “out of order.”

- TIM KELLER | MAKING SENSE OF GOD

IDOLATRY:

trusting anything other than God
as the source of hope, happiness,
significance, and security

SEX, MARRIAGE, AND SINGLENES...

- are not the source of hope, happiness, significance and security
- are good gifts
- cannot eternally satisfy the desires of your heart
- do not determine holiness
- each ultimately point to the lover of our soul

Ephesians 5:25-27, 32 ^{NIV}

Husbands, love your wives, just **as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her** ²⁶ **to make her holy,** cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, ²⁷ and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.

³² This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church.

Revelation 21:2-4 ^{NIV}

I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, **prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband.** ³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. ⁴ ‘He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death’ or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.”

*A life of undivided devotion to Jesus means loving
the right things in the right order.*

GOD ▶ **OTHERS** ▶ **SELF** ▶ **STUFF**

**You are invited to live in
undivided devotion to Jesus.**



HOW MIGHT THE HOLY SPIRIT BE LEADING YOU TO RESPOND?

Become a disciple of Jesus: follow, be changed by, and commit to the mission of Jesus.

Draw near to God: set aside daily time with the lover of your soul.

Friendship with other disciples: grow alongside others in relationships.

Put Christ first in all things: make the glory of Christ your primary pursuit.





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