



**MOSAIC CHURCH OF CENTRAL ARKANSAS**  
**ON CELIBACY**

*The following notes are from a message preached by Mark DeYmaz  
at Mosaic on Sunday, January 23, 2011.*

**Celibacy**

***1 Corinthians 7:1, ff.***

As Harry Li shared in a message on January 16, 2011, Paul first talks about singleness ...

***But more than that, he is answering a specific question re. the virtue of celibacy.***

And so, Paul writes, It is good for a man not to touch a woman outside of marriage; i.e., to remain single or celibate is an honorable and noble calling.

- a. Apparently some (like Paul) were pursuing a celibate life in order to serve the Lord.
- b. In fact, in vs. 7, Paul says I wish all people were like me, i.e., celibate.
- c. But why?
  - Vs 26 Because of present crisis (perhaps Paul foresees growing persecutions).
  - Vs 29 The time is short (Paul expected the imminent return of Christ).
  - Vs 31 The world (as we know it, in this present form) is passing away.
  - Vs 32 (Therefore) I want you to be free from the concerns of this life.
  - Vs 35 So that you may live in undivided devotion to the Lord
    - 1) Vs 32 - An unmarried man can spend his time doing the Lord's work and thinking how to please him. 33 But a married man has to think about his earthly responsibilities and how to please his wife. 34 His interests are divided.
    - 2) Vs 34 - In the same way, a woman who is no longer married or has never been married can be devoted to the Lord and holy in body and in spirit. But a married woman has to think about her earthly responsibilities and how to please her husband.
- d. But Paul concedes (35) "I am saying this for your benefit, not to place restrictions on you. *"I want you to do whatever will help you serve the Lord best, with as few distractions as possible."*

***Later ...***

Vs 6 – Paul makes it clear that his answer to the question of singleness/celibacy is offered from the context of his own personal experience, and not by way of command from the Lord.

A. The word often translated as "concession" is a Greek compound word: *Sun* (Gr., with) *Ginosko* (Gr., knowledge that comes by way of experience); So Paul is saying, "My thoughts in this matter come from my own personal experience; you are in no way commanded to be celibate. The choice is up to you."

B. Why do I believe he is speaking by way of concession to singles/celibates?

- 1) Paul was celibate, so living what he espoused;
- 2) Next three verses he brings it up again; and
- 3) Because in Vs. 10, he contrasts his own opinions with a command from the Lord to those who are married.

C. So celibacy? It's your call.