RELIGIOUS AWARENESS 12TH GRADE

TOPIC: Adult Commitment I

OBJECTIVE: to help the students recognize the Christian lifestyle to which God has called them.

MATERIALS: Blackboard and chalk or paper and pencils for each student.

TEACHER NOTE Depending on your teaching style, this class can be done as a group activity using the board or as a individual activity using paper and pencils.

ACTIVITY: Write the words SINGLE and MARRIED on the board. Beneath each make a column for PROS and CONS. Have the students brainstorm the things that they find good and bad about being single and being married and write them in the appropriate columns on the board. Discuss their ideas.

SUGGESTED DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

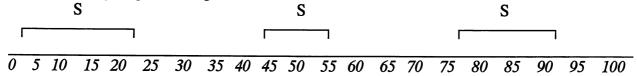
- 1. Why do you think marriage as an institution has lasted all these year?
- 2. Do you ever expect to be married? Why? Why not?
- 3. Who does marriage benefit most? (Men, women, children, society?)
- 4. What are the responsibilities of married life?
- 5. Is being single a chosen lifestyle?
- 6. What place do single people have in society?
- 7. What are the responsibilities of single life?

THE SINGLE LIFE

OBJECTIVE: to help the students realize that there will be times in everyone's life when they will be single.

MATERIALS: paper and pencils or blackboard and chalk (if you have space for all your students at the board)

ACTIVITY: Have the students each make a time line of their life. Have them mark it from 0 - 80, 90, or 100 years in 5 year increments. Then have them mark off the time they think they might be single. **EXAMPLE:**



SUGGESTED DISCUSSION QUESTION:

1. Even if you marry, there will be times in your life that you will be single - Why? (Widowed, divorced, separated, etc.)

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The Single Life continued.

- 2. Will being single be different at each time of your life? Why? Why not?
- 3. Who do you know who you feel is a role model for the single life? Why?

(Referring back to the PRO column under SINGLE in Part I, Freedom will most likely be listed.) Read the following aloud to the students or have a student read:

Galatians 5:13-26 Liberty and Love

After all, brothers, you were called to be free; do not use your freedom as an opening for self-indulgence, but be servants to one another in love, since the whole of the Law is summarized in the one commandment: You must love your neighbor as yourself. If you go snapping at one another and tearing one another to pieces, take care: you will be eaten up by one another.

Instead, I tell you, be guided by the Spirit and you will no longer yield to self-indulgence. The desires of Self-indulgence are always in opposition to the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are in opposition to self-indulgence: they are opposites, one against the other; that is how you are prevented from doing the things that you want to. But when you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the Law. When self-indulgence is at work the results are obvious: sexual vice, impurity, and sensuality, the worship of false gods and sorcery; antagonisms and rivalry, jealousy, bad temper and quarrels, disagreements, factions and malice, drunkenness, orgies and all such things. And about these, I tell you now as I have told you in the past, that people who behave in these ways will not inherit the kingdom of God. On the other hand the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness goodness, trustfulness, gentleness and self-control; no law can touch such things as these. All who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified self with all its passions and its desires.

Since we are living by the Spirit, let our behaviors be guided by the Spirit and let us not be conceited or provocative and envious of one another.

SUGGESTED DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- 1. Since you are all single now, which of the self-indulgences listed in the reading apply to today? Why? Why not?
- 2. Is it easier or harder to practice self-control when you do not have another person to think about? Why? Why not?
- 3. Married people have a strong identity in our society (husband, wife), what are some of the titles society uses to identify a single person? (bachelor, old maid)
- 4. Are these negative, positive, or neutral?
- 5. Do you think differently about single women than you do single men? Why? Why not?

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The Single Life continued

6. What are some positive identities for single people?

- 7. Is it possible to be a sexual person in the single life and still live by the Church's teachings? How? How not?
- 8. What do you think are sexual vice, impurity and sensuality which are listed in the reading?
- 9. Does a single person have to be celibate to live a life by the Spirit? Why? Why not?
- 10. Marriage is a sacrament, do you think there should be some sacramental rite for single people? Why? Why not?
- 11. What would it be?
- 12. What are some positive things that a single person living by the Spirit can contribute to our Church and civil communities that married people might not be able to do?

TEACHER OPTION: Have a follow-up class were you invite single people from all stages of life (young/unmarried, middleage/divorced, older/widowed) to act as a panel to discuss the problems and joys of Christian single life.