**ESTEEMING FAITHFUL CELIBACY**

Dani Treweek | May 13th, 2021

1. **What is Celibacy?**

* Two main meanings

*Although when viewed from the Christian perspective celibacy shares with all expressions of singleness certain common characteristics, there are also important differences […] A person is celibate by positive choice. An individual can never be celibate in a de facto manner, that is, simply because he or she is not yet married or was previously married. Rather, the celibate person has chosen the single life as the best option for the fulfillment of a personal calling.*

Stanley Grenz*, Sexual Ethics* p. 196

*… our assumption is that all single Christians should practice celibacy. This is not to say that we believe all single Christians should experience an undeniable “call’ from God or that they should make a life-long commitment to living a single, celibate life. It does not even mean that we believe that single Christians should not date or desire marriage. It simply means that Christians should abstain from sexual relationships for as long as they are single, whether that is for a short period of time or for their entire lives.*

Christine Colon & Bonnie Field, *Singled Out p. 17*

* From the original? *Caelebs*
* From the Bible?

1. **Celibacy in the Past**

* The Early Church
* The Reformation

*Celibacy, that is the unmarried state or prohibited marriage, as you know, is also one of your papal innovations contrary to God’s eternal Word and contrary to the ancient blessed custom of Christendom, contrary to all living creatures and the creation of God himself.*

Martin Luther, *‘Exhortation to all Clergy Assembled in Ausburg 1530’.*

1. **Celibacy in the Present #1: Marriage, Sexual Temptation & Celibacy**

*Before Adam fell, it was a simple matter to remain virgin and chaste, but now it is hardly possible and without special grace from God quite impossible.*

Martin Luther, *‘A Sermon on the Estate of Marriage’.*

1. **Celibacy in the Present #2: The Self, Sexual Desire & Celibacy**

*In the age in which we live, we are taught to be authentic in such a way that identity, recognition, and belonging are now deeply connected to the sexual desires we have and the manner in which we express them*

Carl Trueman, *The Rise & Triumph of the Modern Self*, p. 392

*Only in a world in which selves are typically recognised or validated by their sexuality and their sexual fulfillment—in which these things define who people are at a deep level—can celibacy really be considered costly.*

Carl Trueman, *The Rise & Triumph of the Modern Self,* p. 391

1. **Esteeming Faithful Celibacy Today**