

## PAUL AND SECULAR SINGLENESS IN 1 CORINTHIANS 7

Paul's discussion of marriage and singleness in 1 Corinthians 7 has long presented exegetical challenges, beginning with the chapter's opening statement: 'It is good for a man not to touch a woman.' Interpreters continue to debate whether the ascetic language of the statement reflects the views of Paul or the Corinthians. They also debate the motivations for the rise of an ascetic movement in Corinth. In this groundbreaking study, Barry N. Danylak offers a fresh solution to these conundra. Using evidence from Egyptian census papyri, he demonstrates the prevalence of secular singleness in Roman urban environments. He also draws on classic Greek marriage debates to argue that the Corinthians' disposition likely reflected an Epicurean perspective of secular singleness and that Paul himself was responsible for the 'touch' language as a rhetorical adaptation in his response to the Corinthians' question. Combining fresh evidence with attentive analysis, Danylak's study thus proposes a viable resolution to these long-standing exegetical challenges.

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# Paul and Secular Singleness in 1 Corinthians 7

BARRY N. DANYLAK



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## ABBREVIATIONS

<i>AE</i>	<i>L'Année épigraphique</i> , Paris, 1888–
<i>AG</i>	<i>Anthologia Graeca</i>
<i>ANRW</i>	Temporini, H., and W. Haase, eds., <i>Aufstieg und Niedergang der römischen Welt: Geschichte und Kultur Roms im Spiegel der neueren Forschung</i> (Berlin: Walter de Gruyter, 1972–)
ASCSA	American School of Classical Studies at Athens
ASP	American Society of Papyrologists
<i>BASP</i>	<i>Bulletin of the American Society of Papyrologists</i>
BDAG	Danker, Frederick William, et al., eds., <i>A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature</i> (3rd ed.; Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2000)
BDF	Blass, F., and A. Debrunner, <i>A Greek Grammar of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature</i> (trans. Robert W. Funk; Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1961)
c	century
<i>CBQ</i>	<i>The Catholic Biblical Quarterly</i>
<i>CIG</i>	<i>Corpus Inscriptionum Graecarum</i> (Berlin: A. Böckh, 1828–77)
<i>CIL</i>	<i>Corpus Inscriptionum Latinarum</i> (Berlin: G. Reinerum, 1863–1974)
CSB	Christian Standard Bible
<i>DGWE</i>	Hanegraaff, Wouter J., ed., <i>Dictionary of Gnosis &amp; Western Esotericism</i> (Leiden: Brill, 2006)
DL	Diogenes Laertius
<i>DRN</i>	<i>De rerum natura</i>
<i>EDNT</i>	Balz, H., and G. Schneider, eds., <i>Exegetical Dictionary of the New Testament</i> (Edinburgh: T&T Clark, 1990–93)

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EJ	Ehrenberg, V., and A. H. M. Jones, eds., <i>Documents Illustrating the Reigns of Augustus &amp; Tiberius</i> (Oxford: Clarendon, 1955)
ESV	English Standard Version
ET	English Translation
FPG	<i>Fragmenta philosophorum Graecorum</i> (Paris: Didot, 1860)
HR	<i>History of Religions</i>
HTR	<i>Harvard Theological Review</i>
IErythr	Engelmann, H., and R. Merkelbach, eds., <i>Die Inschriften von Erythrai und Klazonmenai</i> (Bonn: R. Habelt, 1972)
IG	<i>Inscriptiones Graecae</i>
Iscr. di Cos	Iscrizioni di Cos
IVP	InterVarsity Press
JAAR	<i>Journal of the American Academy of Religion</i>
JBL	<i>Journal of Biblical Literature</i>
JR	<i>Journal of Religion</i>
JRS	<i>Journal of Roman Studies</i>
JSNT	<i>Journal for the Study of the New Testament</i>
JSPL	<i>Journal for the Study of Paul and His Letters</i>
KD	<i>Kuriai Doxai</i>
L-N	Louw, Johannes P., and Eugene A. Nida, eds., <i>Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament Based on Semantic Domains</i> (New York: UBS, 1988)
LCL	Loeb Classical Library
LS	Liddell, H. G., and R. Scott, eds., <i>Greek-English Lexicon with a Revised Supplement</i> (Oxford: Clarendon, 1996)
LSh	Lewis, Charlton T., <i>A Latin Dictionary Founded on Andrews' Edition of Freund's Latin Dictionary / Revised, Enlarged, and in Great Part Rewritten by Charlton T. Lewis and Charles Short</i> (Oxford: Clarendon, 1896)
LXX	Septuagint (the Greek Old Testament)
MDAI(A)	<i>Mitteilungen des deutschen archäologischen Instituts. Athenische Abteilung</i>
n =	sample size
NASB	New American Standard Version
NEB	The New English Bible
NIV	New International Version

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NJB	New Jerusalem Bible
NLT	New Living Translation
<i>NPNF</i>	Schaff, Philip, ed., <i>The Nicene and Post-Nicene Fathers</i> (14 vols; Repr. Peabody: Hendrickson, 1994)
NRSV	New Revised Standard Version
<i>NTS</i>	<i>New Testament Studies</i>
<i>OCE</i>	<i>Oxford Classical Dictionary</i> (Rev. 3rd ed.; Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2003)
<i>OED</i>	<i>Oxford English Dictionary</i> (2nd ed.; Oxford: Clarendon, 1989)
<i>OLD</i>	<i>Oxford Latin Dictionary</i> (Oxford: Clarendon, 1968)
p =	(statistics) the probability of obtaining a test statistic value at least as extreme as the one that was observed, assuming that the null hypothesis is true
P.Brux.	Nachtergaele, G., ed., <i>Papyri Bruxellenses Graecae</i> (Brussels: Musées royaux d'art et d'histoire, 1974)
P.Col. III	Westermann, W. L., ed., <i>Zenon Papyri: Business Papers of the Third Century B.C. dealing with Palestine and Egypt</i> (New York: Columbia University Press, 1934)
P.Col. X	Bagnall, R. S., and D. D. Obbink, eds., <i>Columbia Papyri X</i> (Atlanta: ASP, 1996)
<i>PCPhS</i>	<i>Proceedings of the Cambridge Philological Society</i>
PG	Migne, J. P. ed., <i>Patrologia Graeca</i> (Paris: Migne, 1857–66)
<i>PGM</i>	Preisendanz, K., ed., <i>Papyri Graecae Magicae</i> (reprint 1973; 3 vols.; Leipzig: Teubner, 1931)
PHI	The Packard Humanities Institute searchable Greek inscriptions: <a href="http://epigraphy.packhum.org/inscriptions/">http://epigraphy.packhum.org/inscriptions/</a>
P.Lond.	Kenyon, F. G., and H. I. Bell, eds., <i>Greek Papyri in the British Museum</i> (Vol. 3; London: British Museum, 1907)
P.Mich. Zen.	Edgar, C. C. ed., <i>Zenon Papyri</i> (Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 1931)
P.Oxy.	<i>The Oxyrhynchus Papyri</i> (75 vols.; London: Egypt Exploration Society in Graeco-Roman Memoirs, 1898–2010)
P.Petr. II	Mahaffy, J. P. ed., <i>The Flinders Petrie Papyri</i> (Dublin: Royal Irish Academy, 1893)

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P.Prag. II	Pintaudi, Rosario, R. Dostálová, et al., eds., <i>Papyri Graecae Wessely Pragenses</i> (Florence: Edizioni Gonnelli, 1995)
RE	Herzog, J. J., <i>Realencyklopädie für protestantische Theologie und Kirche</i> (Leipzig: J. C. Hinrichs, 1877–88)
REG	<i>Revue des études grecques</i> (Paris)
RSV	Revised Standard Version
SBL	Society of Biblical Literature
SEG	<i>Supplementum Epigraphicum Graecum</i>
SPCK	Society for the Propagation of Christian Knowledge
SV	<i>Sententiae Vaticanae</i>
Syll. <sup>3</sup>	Dittenberger, W. ed., <i>Sylloge inscriptionum graecarum</i> (Leipzig: S. Hirzelium, 1915–24)
TB	<i>Tyndale Bulletin</i>
TDNT	Kittel, Gerhard, and Gerhard Freidrich, eds. <i>Theological Dictionary of the New Testament</i> (10 vols.; Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans, 1964)
U	Usener, H., <i>Epicurea</i> (Leipzig: Teubner, 1887)
UBS	United Bible Societies
W&D	<i>Works and Days</i>
ZNW	<i>Zeitschrift für die neutestamentliche Wissenschaft und die Kunde der älteren Kirche</i>
ZPE	<i>Zeitschrift für Papyrologie und Epigraphik</i>
ZTK	<i>Zeitschrift für Theologie und Kirche</i>