

Answer:

The term “*sister*” as used in many Christian denominations particularly in the Roman Catholic Church refers to a woman who has dedicated her life to God, often through vows of celibacy, obedience, and sometimes poverty. While this exact role is not described in the Bible using modern titles like “nun” or “sister,” Scripture does speak to the principle behind such a commitment: voluntarily choosing a life of singleness for the sake of God’s kingdom.

One foundational passage is:

1 Corinthians 7:34-36 (ESV):

“And the unmarried or betrothed woman is anxious about the things of the Lord, how to be holy in body and spirit. But the married woman is anxious about worldly things, how to please her husband.

I say this for your own benefit, not to lay any restraint upon you, but to promote good order and to secure your undivided devotion to the Lord.

If anyone thinks that he is not behaving properly toward his betrothed, if his passions are strong, and it has to be, let him do as he wishes: let them marry—it is no sin.”

This passage reveals Paul’s affirmation of singleness as a valuable spiritual path when chosen freely and for the right reasons. A woman who chooses not to marry in order to focus fully on serving God is acting within biblical principles. Paul emphasizes that such a choice must be made freely not under compulsion and that it is not sinful to marry if one feels the need to do so.

It’s important to note, however, that Paul does not command singleness, nor does he tie it to salvation or spiritual superiority. Rather, he presents it as a *gift* (1 Corinthians 7:7) and an option that allows greater focus on ministry.

That said, the Bible also warns against forbidding marriage as a doctrinal requirement:

1 Timothy 4:1-3 (NKJV):

“Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron,

forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from foods which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth.”

Here, Paul is not criticizing those who choose celibacy, but those religious systems or leaders who require it making celibacy a precondition for spiritual leadership or favor with God. This becomes problematic when it overrides personal conviction and compels people to deny natural desires, leading to spiritual or emotional harm.

Theological Summary: Voluntary singleness for the purpose of serving God is biblically supported (1 Cor. 7:34-35). Compulsory celibacy as a religious requirement is criticized (1 Tim. 4:3). Singleness is considered a *gift* (1 Cor. 7:7) and should not be imposed. A woman who chooses not to marry to devote herself fully to God (as “sisters” or nuns often do) is not acting against Scripture, as long as it is done sincerely, not under pressure or to gain status.

May God bless you.

## Does the Bible Permit a Woman to Become a Nun or “Sister”?

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