



Singleness

Various Scriptures

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The words of Jesus make it clear that every believer is an individual person, whose most important, most sustaining relationship is with Jesus. Single or married, our relationship with Him is singularly preeminent and we will ultimately stand before Him as single persons. With that in mind, those who are single have a unique opportunity devotion and service to Jesus Christ.

The Genesis mandate and God's design: "Be fruitful, and multiply, and fill the earth..." (1:28)

Three hard sayings of Jesus that have a bearing on singleness:

1. Matthew 22:23-33

In heaven, there is no marriage, for at least two reasons:

- Our love for others will be perfect and complete.
- In being with Christ, we will fully know the most perfect of all relationships.

2. Matthew 12:46-50 (Mark 3:20-21)

- Our physical relational bonds are important and receive much attention in Scripture, but our relationship with Christ is preeminent.
- Jesus was speaking about His own relationships here, from the perspective of a single man.

3. Luke 18:18-30

- There is no relational competition. Jesus always wins. He is Lord.
- Of all your relationships, only Jesus can sustain you and strengthen you perfectly

Every believer is an individual person whose most important, most sustaining relationship is the one you have your Savior.

1 Corinthians 7:6-9, 32-35

- Christians are free to marry or free to remain single.
- Singles are called to "good order" and "undivided devotion to the Lord."

1. Don't adopt the world's mindset.
2. You are complete (Colossians 2:10).
3. You are gifted to serve Christ and His body (1 Corinthians 12:7).
4. Work hard to build friendships with other believers that bridge our need for companionship (Proverbs 18:24).
5. If you're single and struggling with temptation or discontentment, look for help, grow in Christ, and pray.
6. The ultimate contentment for single believers must be found in the very same place as it is for those who are married – in Christ (2 Peter 3:17-18).

Questions to Consider

1. In what way do the Old and New Testaments seem to differ when it comes to people who are single or those who are married and without children? How does God's focus on national Israel help to explain that difference?
2. How do the words of Jesus in Matthew 22 (In the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage) help you to think about singleness?
3. What is something we learn about singleness from the example of Jesus, who did not marry or take part in sexual intimacy?
4. The primary relationship for the married person should be the same primary relationship for the single person – one's relationship to Jesus Christ. How are you cultivating deep and abiding intimacy with Him?
5. How are you cultivating good and deep friendships with Christian family? How many Christians friends know you well and know details of how to pray for you? How many Christian friends do you know well and are praying for specific needs?
6. What does it mean to you that Colossians 2:10 says that "in Christ you have been made complete"? What things does the world try to tell you that you are lacking?

For Further Reading: *7 Myths About Singleness* (2019) by Sam Allberry