

I.Introduction.

II.Utilize your singleness for the Lord. 1 Cor. 7:7,32,34b-35

A.It can be hard to be single. Gen. 2:18 1 Cor. 7:2,9 2 Tim. 2:22 Isa. 55:1-2

B.Singles still need community. 1 Cor. 12:7-27 Eph. 4:1-3 Heb. 10:24-25 Gal. 6:2 Mark 3:34-35 John 19:26

C.You do not need to be married in order to fully express your humanity.

1.Jesus was single and fully human. John 1:14 Heb. 2:17f 4:15 Rom. 8:3

a.Jesus had spiritual offspring. Isa. 53:10

b.Paul had spiritual children. 1 Tim. 1:2 2:7-8,11 Phm. 1:10 1 Thess. 2:7,11 1 Cor. 4:14 Gal. 4:19

2.Paul proclaimed advantages as a single man. Encourages others who have this gift.

3>Your identity is in Christ. Gal. 2:20 1 Pet. 2:9 2 Cor. 5:17

4.One day we will all be single. Matt. 22:30

5.Our union with Christ is longer lasting and more satisfying than marriage. John 17:3 Heb. 13:5 Ps. 16:11 Zeph. 3:17

D.Don't waste your singleness. God has a purpose for your celibacy/singleness. 1 Cor. 7:32, 34b Mark 10:42-45 Prov. 21:5 Mt. 6:33 25:4-30 Ps. 90:12

E.For the church – care for the singles among us. Acts 6 1 Tim. 5:3ff Js. 1:27

III.Singles and Marriage.

A.Marriage Myths.

1.Have you been told that God won't provide a spouse until you are fully content being single? Gen. 2:18 1 Cor. 7

2.Have you heard that you should just wait patiently where you are and God will send a spouse your way? Ruth 3 Gen. 24

3.Has anyone suggested that if you desire marriage and don't think that you are gifted for celibacy that God will surely provide a spouse for you? Matt. 19:12

4.Have you been tempted to believe that getting married would solve all of your problems as you live happily ever after?

5.When person experiencing same-sex desire becomes a Christian will they be attracted to the opposite sex and marry? 1 Cor. 6:9-11 Col. 3:5

6.Have you been told that people who carefully wait years to get married are likely to be more mature and thus have more successful marriages?

7.Have you been told that most single people remain unmarried because they are too picky?

B.Some are called by God to a lifetime of singleness. 1 Cor. 7:7-9 Mt. 19:10-12

1.Some choose singleness as the best way they can serve God – singleness can be a *gift* from God. 1 Cor. 7:7 Jer. 16:1

2. Some don't desire what marriage offers.
3. Some in a fallen world may not be physically or mentally suited for marriage. Lev. 21:20 Deut. 23:1
4. Some may not have opportunity to marry a suitable partner.
5. Some choose not to take advantage of the opportunities that they have.

C. Some hope and pray that their singleness is temporary.

D. What are your motives for seeking marriage?

1. Marriage is good for those called to it. Eccl. 9:9 Prov. 18:22
2. How can you best serve the Lord?
3. Whose hopes and dreams can you help to fulfill? 2 Sam. 13:1
4. Are you ready to take on the responsibilities of marriage?

E. What can you do to get ready for marriage?

1. Strive to become the person whom the person of your dreams would want to marry.
2. Establish biblical priorities for choosing a spouse. Prov. 31:10,30-31 Judges 16:4 2 Sam. 13:1 Ruth 4:11
3. What are common mistakes people make when searching for a spouse? Prov. 31:3,30 14:12 3:5-6 21:9 19:13 27:15 Deut. 7:3-4 Judges 14:1-2 16:4f 1 Kings 11:4

F. What can you do to search for a spouse?

1. Find your satisfaction in God as you exercise patience and contentment.
2. Realize you have strong feelings – guard your heart. Pr. 4:23
3. Have friendships with people of the opposite sex without the accompanying expectations and commitments.
4. You don't have to be passive. Gen. 24 Ruth 3
5. Networking – like-minded churches, friends.
6. What concerns should you have about online dating?

G. The purpose of courtship/intentional dating is to investigate the possibility of marriage.

1. Beware of fornication. Rom. 12:1-2 Heb. 13:4
2. How to avoid hurting and being hurt in dating/courtship:
 - a. It is best to avoid a sequence of mini-marriages and divorces.
 - b. Seek to protect one another's purity physically and emotionally so that if things don't work out you won't be ashamed to be in the same church.
 - c. Treat him/her just like you hope that the person who is with your future spouse is treating him/her tonight so that there will be no regrets.
 - d. One day you will wish that you never said "I love you" or kissed anyone other than your spouse.
3. Some courtships end successfully when one or both parties determine that this isn't going to work out.

H. When is a relationship ready for marriage?

1. Powlison, Pre-engagement: Five Questions to Ask Yourself
2. <https://www.challies.com/articles/10-issues-to-work-through-before-you-get-married/>
3. Piper: Engagement Questions (below)
4. Recommended resource for pre-marital counseling – Tying the Knot Tighter, Green.

IV. Conclusion: A wedding day we're all waiting for. Mt. 22:29-30 Luke 20:34-36 Ps. 16:11 Rev.

19:6-9 21:4 1 Cor. 13:12 1 Thess. 4:16-17