

Relationship Status:

Single

→ **Relationship Status: Single**

Read I Corinthians 7:1-2; 6-9 & Matthew 19:11-12; Genesis 1-2

1 Corinthians 7:1-2 & 6-9

¹Now concerning the matters about which you wrote: "It is good for a man not to have sexual relations with a woman." ²But because of the temptation to sexual immorality, each man should have his own wife and each woman her own husband.

⁶Now as a concession, not a command, I say this. I wish that all were as I myself am. But each has his own gift from God, one of one kind and one of another.

⁸To the unmarried and the widows I say that it is good for them to remain single as I am.

⁹But if they cannot exercise self-control, they should marry. For it is better to marry than to burn with passion.

Matthew 19:11-12

¹¹But he said to them, "Not everyone can receive this saying, but only those to whom it is given. ¹²For there are eunuchs who have been so from birth, and there are eunuchs who have been made eunuchs by men, and there are eunuchs who have made themselves eunuchs for the sake of the kingdom of heaven. Let the one who is able to receive this receive it."

Genesis chapter 1 & 2

Introduction

What is one thing you've applied from last week's message?

What age were your parents when they were married?

Growing up, what age did you think you would be married?

What are some stereotypes of singles in our society?

What are some stereotypes of urban singles? (hint: think of Sex and the City, Friends, and others)

Read Genesis Chapter 1 & 2

What were some of Adam's discoveries about being human?

How did God respond to Adam's original loneliness?

What does this original relationship between Adam and Eve say about our design and intent to desire relationship?

Read 1 Corinthians 7: 6-9

Why does Paul say “I wish that all were as I myself am” to the Corinthian audience?

From what you know about Paul’s life, why was the life of singleness a better path?

What are some benefits of being single as it pertains to serving the body of Christ?

Who are some examples of Godly singles and what do you admire about them?

There are numerous reasons to be single in contemporary culture. Some of them include:

Fear.

- How does fear of your past or of the future keep us from pursuing relationship?
- How does the dysfunction of your family kept us from believing that good and holy relationship is possible?
- How does fear led us to create expectations for a mate that is unachievable?
- What is frightens you about relationships?

Selfishness.

- How can choosing to stay single be motivated by selfishness?
- What are some of the ‘fun’ upsides of being single?
- What are some of the freedoms that a single person can enjoy?
- (for singles) – Does the pursuit of fun or freedom keep you from pursuing marriage?

What is the tension between the two views of singleness?

- What are some ways the church can respond to the tension between the Gospel view of singleness and the cultural view of singleness?
- What are some ways my small group can respond?
- How do I need to respond to singles or my personal singleness?



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