



THE BEAUTY OF SINGLENESS

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BIG IDEA: Singleness is part of God's beautiful design for either a period of time or a lifelong pursuit. The principles apply to everyone, no matter one's status.

The Christian single has some excellent biblical models.

Singleness for a lifetime: devoted service to Jesus.

Shocking statement: You do not have to get married. A single person can have a fulfilling and joyful life of celibacy and devotion to Jesus.

Matthew 19:11-12 NIV

11 Jesus replied, "Not everyone can accept this word, but only those to whom it has been given. 12 For some are eunuchs because they were born that way; others were made that way by men; and others have renounced marriage because of the kingdom of heaven. The one who can accept this should accept it."

See 1 Corinthians 7:1-2; 7-9; 25-28

1 Corinthians 7:32-35 I would like you to be free from concern. An unmarried man is concerned about the Lord's affairs – how he can please the Lord. But a married man is concerned about the affairs of this world – how he can please his wife—and his interests are divided. An unmarried woman or virgin is concerned about the Lord's affairs: Her aim is to be devoted to the Lord in both body and spirit. But a married woman is concerned about the affairs of this world – how she can please her husband. I am saying this for your own good, not to restrict you, but that you may live in a right way in undivided devotion to the Lord.

Singleness for a season: walking with Jesus in purity.

1 Timothy 4:12 Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity.

Fight for purity. Are you willing to give up something to follow Jesus?



LIFEGROUP LEADER'S GUIDE LESSON 5: THE BEAUTY OF SINGLENESS

Date of Sermon: 10.08.17

DISCUSSION STARTER: The single population is growing in the U.S. and in LifeSpring Church. There are both advantages and disadvantages to singleness. Give some examples of both.

Do you think that the average person understands the struggles of the single person? Why/why not?

BRAINSTORM TOGETHER: Give examples of single people in the Bible and their contributions to the biblical story. What conclusions, if any, can you draw from this exercise?

READ THE FOLLOWING PASSAGES:

1 Cor. 7:1-2; 7-9

1 Now for the matters you wrote about: It is good for a man not to marry. 2 But since there is so much immorality, each man should have his own wife, and each woman her own husband.

7 I wish that all men were as I am. But each man has his own gift from God; one has this gift, another has that. 8 Now to the unmarried and the widows I say: It is good for them to stay unmarried, as I am. 9 But if they cannot control themselves, they should marry, for it is better to marry than to burn with passion.

1 Cor. 7:25-28; 32-35

25 Now about virgins: I have no command from the Lord, but I give a judgment as one who by the Lord's mercy is trustworthy. 26 Because of the present crisis, I think that it is good for you to remain as you are. 27 Are you married? Do not seek a divorce. Are you unmarried? Do not look for a wife. 28 But if you do marry, you have not sinned; and if a virgin marries, she has not sinned. But those who marry will face many troubles in this life, and I want to spare you this.

32 I would like you to be free from concern. An unmarried man is concerned about the Lord's affairs – how he can please the Lord. 33 But a married man is concerned about the affairs of this world – how he can please his wife— 34 and his interests are divided. An unmarried woman or virgin is concerned about the Lord's affairs: Her aim is to be devoted to the Lord in both body and spirit. But a married woman is concerned about the affairs of this world – how she can please her husband. 35 I am saying this for your own good, not to restrict you, but that you may live in a right way in undivided devotion to the Lord.

1 Timothy 4:12

Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity.

Hebrews 13:4 Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral.

QUESTIONS TO DISCUSS:

Based on the above scriptures, what would you say are the requirements for a godly, single lifestyle?

Is marriage any more of a sacred status than singleness? Why/why not?

In what ways can singles serve Christ more whole-heartedly than married people?

What are some dangers of a single lifestyle?

How do these and other scriptures speak to the growing practice of cohabitation among singles?
How can the church speak to this issue with truth and grace?

How is “single for a season” different than a “gifted for singleness,” like the Apostle Paul?” 1 Cor. 7:7

Do you think that LifeSpring Church recognizes, serves, and empowers single adults well enough?
Why/why not? How can our church do better in this area?

Some singles feel like “second-class citizens” compared to married couples. What is one thing you can do to encourage a single person?

Understanding that none of us has a promise of life tomorrow, if you are married, how does this discussion help you appreciate your spouse?

If you suddenly became single, what changes would need to make to live a godly life in your new status?

Close by praying for our young single adults, older single adults, and single moms and dads.