

- "Spinsters", "Old Maids", and the "Dissatisfied": Redeeming the Church's view of Single People
- Say "Yes" to the...Set Up: The Church's Discomfort with Singles
- Single and Ready to Mingle...with Married People
- Singles Bible Studies: The Modern-Day Leper Colony
- "I Will or...I Won't": Why People aren't their Marital Status
- Gleaning Wheat or Waiting for Boaz?



TITLES THAT DIDN'T MAKE THE CUT





- Single people are miserable and want to be married.
- Aloneness and loneliness are the same thing.
- Marriage is more significant than singleness.
- Singles have more time for ministry or are single to get more done.
- Singles are selfish and love to indulge in their independence.
- Intimate relationships are reserved for married people.

HOW MANY SINGLES CAN YOU NAME?

Matthew 19:9–12 - EUNOUCHOS - voluntary

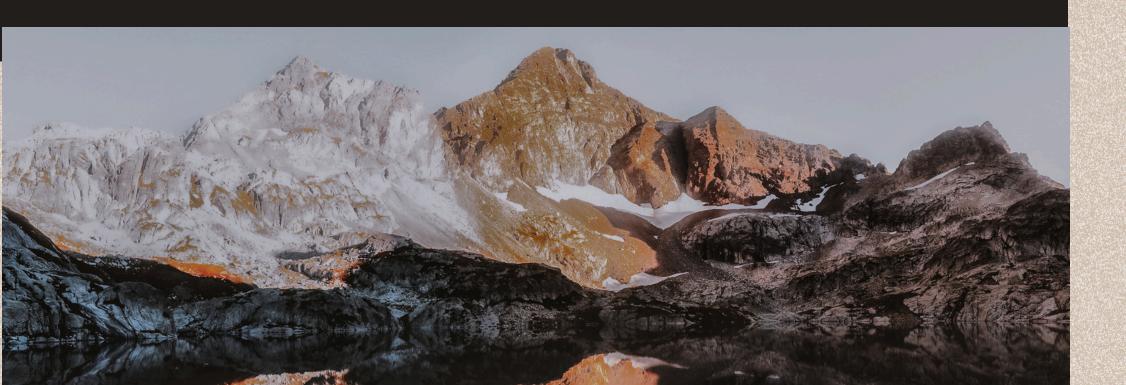
Matthew 22:29-30 - Marriage in Heaven

1 Corinthians 7 - the "gift" of singleness

Galatians 5:22 - Self-control (fruit of the spirit)

Colossians 2:6-10 - Complete in Him

1 Sam. 18:1-5 - Covenant Relationship



WHAT DOES SCRIPTURE SAY



"IF MARRIAGE SHOWS US THE SHAPE OF THE GOSPEL, THEN CELIBACY [SINGLENESS] SHOWS US THE SUFFICIENCY OF IT."

SAM ALBERRY

ALREADY AND NOT YET

We are assured of things hoped for. We already have spiritual blessings from Jesus dying on the cross, and we have not yet experienced them in full.

Marriage is a spiritual picture and testimony of Christ's relationship to the church.

Then the intimacy that a single person experiences of sole reliance and full relationship with Jesus alone is the spiritual picture of the "not yet" - of when Jesus returns and marriage is no more. (Matthew 22:29-30)

LET'S TALK ABOUT CELIBACY & SINGLENESS

Purity Culture in the 90s/early 2000s gave the wrong idea around not having sex. Its message was to save yourself for marriage...but what if marriage isn't what you end up with.

Honor those who are living as single Christians and living celibate lives. They model a way of life that provides a place for people struggling with identity-based challenges.

It's hard work, just as living well as married people is hard work.

Resisting sexual immorality is something all Christians are called to do.

No Christian should be getting married unless they understand that their intimacy needs need to first be met in relationship with God.

LEADING AND LIVING SINGLE

- Be aware of what you're not.
- Work wisely. Aloneness is not space to fill with work and always filling others up.
- Find your soul friends (anamcara).
- Be aware of burnout and where you need to say "no".
- Be aware of isolation and shallow relationships.
- Hire in a balanced way.
- Travel and meetings. Be wise.

LEADING AND LIVING MARRIED PEOPLE

- You need friendships. You need singles in to be part of those friendships. Invite single people in. Invite them into covenant relationship. This is how we prepare a place for communities that may not have marriage as an option. This is how we actually create a place to belong.
- Defend and contend for your single community members.
- Learn from mature Christian single people. They
 are living in the "Not Yet" seeking only God to
 meet their intimacy needs.
- Consistently inventory how your intimacy needs are met.
- Break down "group" boundaries in churches.



RESOURCES

Books:

Spiritual Friendships - Wes Hill Redeeming Singleness - Barry Danylak/John Piper Six Myths About Singleness - Sam Allberry The Meaning of Singleness - Dani Treweek

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