

Introduction:

Three Scenes of Singleness:

1. It's not okay to be single.
2. What's wrong with you?
3. What's wrong with me?

What Does God Have to Say about the Single Life?

1. Jesus on Singleness

¹⁰The disciples said to Him, "If this is the situation between a husband and wife, it is better not to marry." ¹¹Jesus replied, "Not everyone can accept this word, but only those to whom it has been given. ¹²For 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."

Matthew 19:10-12 (NIV)

Singleness is a preferred state, not demanded.

2. The Primary New Testament Passage on Singleness:

1 Corinthians 7

Context: Sexual Purity in Relationships with the Opposite Sex 1 Corinthians 7:1

1 Corinthians 7:1-9

¹Now for the matters you wrote about: It is good for a man not to marry. ²But since there is so much immorality, each man should have his own wife, and each woman her own husband. ³The husband should fulfill his marital duty to his wife, and likewise the wife to her husband. ⁴The wife's body does not belong to her alone but also to her husband. In the same way, the husband's body does not belong to him alone but also to his wife. ⁵Do not deprive each other except by mutual consent and for a time, so that you may devote yourselves to prayer. Then come together again so that Satan will not tempt you because of your lack of self-control. ⁶I say this as a concession, not as a command. ⁷I wish that all men were as I am. But each man has his own gift from God; one has this gift, another has that.

⁸Now to the unmarried and the widows I say: It is good for them to stay unmarried, as I am. ⁹But if they cannot control themselves, they should marry, for it is better to marry than to burn with passion.

1 Corinthians 7:29-35

²⁹What I mean, brothers, is that the time is short. From now on those who have wives should live as if they had none; ³⁰those who mourn, as if they did not; those who are happy, as if they were not; those who buy something, as if it were not theirs to keep; ³¹those who use the things of the world, as if not engrossed in them. For this world in its present form is passing away.

³²I would like you to be free from concern. An unmarried man is concerned about the Lord's affairs—how he can please the Lord. ³³But a married man is concerned about the affairs of this world—how he can please his wife— ³⁴and 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. ³⁵I 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.

The Church needs to view singleness as:

- Normal and spiritually superior in position for devotion to Christ and impact to the world
- Given major responsibility of service in the body of Christ

Single people need to view themselves as:

- Normal
- God-created for such a time as this
- Through the lens of what they have, not what they don't have
- They actually possess...
 - Freedom
 - Opportunity
 - Time, less distraction
 - Flexibility

Prescription for singleness:

- Rejoice in what you have
- Focus on your vertical relationship
- Cultivate strong social relationships – friendships
- Work at becoming the right person instead finding the right person

Recommended series – *Love, Sex & Lasting Relationships* by Chip Ingram