

## 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

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

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

*<sup>1</sup>Now for the matters you wrote about: It is good for a man not to marry. <sup>2</sup>But since there is so much immorality, each man should have his own wife, and each woman her own husband. <sup>3</sup>The husband should fulfill his marital duty to his wife, and likewise the wife to her husband. <sup>4</sup>The 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. <sup>5</sup>Do 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. <sup>6</sup>I say this as a concession, not as a command. <sup>7</sup>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.*

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

#### 1 Corinthians 7:29-35

*<sup>29</sup>What I mean, brothers, is that the time is short. From now on those who have wives should live as if they had none; <sup>30</sup>those 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; <sup>31</sup>those who use the things of the world, as if not engrossed in them. For this world in its present form is passing away.*

*<sup>32</sup>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. <sup>33</sup>But a married man is concerned about the affairs of this world—how he can please his wife— <sup>34</sup>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. <sup>35</sup>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.*

**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

## Introduction:

### Second- Rate Sex vs. First- Rate Sex:

The fire in the fireplace is warmth, light and beauty.  
The fire out of the fireplace is destruction.

### Genesis 2:18-25

*<sup>18</sup> The LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him." <sup>19</sup> Now the LORD God had formed out of the ground all the beasts of the field and all the birds of the air. He brought them to the man to see what he would name them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name. <sup>20</sup> So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds of the air and all the beasts of the field. But for Adam no suitable helper was found. <sup>21</sup> So the LORD God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, He took one of the man's ribs and closed up the place with flesh. <sup>22</sup> Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib He had taken out of the man, and He brought her to the man.*

*<sup>23</sup> The man said,  
"This is now bone of my bones  
and flesh of my flesh;  
she shall be called 'woman,'  
for she was taken out of man."*

*<sup>24</sup> For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh. <sup>25</sup> The man and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame.*

**Man and Woman complete one another.**

## Definition of Sex in the Bible:

1. “*Knowing*” – (Intimacy) Adam and Eve and Abraham and Sarah –(communication and depth of relationship)
2. “*To Lie With*” – David and Bathsheba, Potifer’s Wife and Joseph – Cheap counterfeit of the physical alone, without commitment, without security. It’s the external touching of bodies, but not the entrance of the holy of holies. It’s a cheap substitute.
3. “*To Go Into*” – Abraham and Hagar – There’s no relationship or even lust.

### 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.*

### Ephesians 5:3-13

*‘But immorality or any impurity or greed must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints; ‘and there must be no filthiness and silly talk, or coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks. ‘For this you know with certainty, that no immoral or impure person or covetous man, who is an idolater, has an inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. ‘Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. ‘Therefore do not be partakers with them; ‘for you were formerly darkness, but now you are Light in the Lord; walk as children of Light ‘(for the fruit of the Light consists in all goodness and righteousness and truth), ‘trying to learn what is pleasing to the Lord. ‘Do not participate in the unfruitful deeds of darkness, but instead even expose them; ‘for it is disgraceful even to speak of the things which are done by them in secret. ‘But all things become visible when they are exposed by the light, for everything that becomes visible is light.*

## Why Does God Prohibit Sex Before Marriage?

- For your protection
- For your provision

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





**Situation #2: sexual immorality**

- Matthew 5:31-32
- Matthew 19:3-12

**Situation #3: desertion by an unbeliever**

- I Corinthians 7:12-16

**Some Concluding Principles, Common Sense, and Serious Admonition:**

You need wise counsel and accountability in thinking through the Biblical parameters using:

- Genesis 2:24
- Malachi 2:16
- Matthew 5
- Matthew 19
- 1 Corinthians 7

*If you are divorced outside of the biblical parameters, you can still be forgiven.*

**Recommended Living on the Edge resources:**

*House or Home: Message #1, Marriage - A Holy Covenant (CD)*

*Experiencing God's Dream for Your Marriage (DVD or CD series)*

## Introduction: Dealing with the Damage of Divorce

1. Unresolved issues
2. Overwhelming emotions
3. Lifestyle adjustments

## Four Stepping Stones to Recovery:

1. **Find Hope** - that won't let you down.

➤ Action step: Set your hope on Jesus.

Matthew 11:28-30

2. **Find Peace** - by closing the wound.

➤ Action step: Put your past behind you.

Ephesians 4:31-32

3. **Find Love** - by shunning short-cuts.

➤ Action step: Avoid the pitfalls of transition.

Proverbs 16:25

4. **Find a Future** - by building a healthy relationship.

➤ Action step: Do your next relationship God's way.

Ephesians 5:1-2