

WHY BEING SINGLE IS NECESSARY

Becoming Whole Before Becoming One

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INTRODUCTION

Modern culture has unintentionally reduced singleness to a waiting room. It is often viewed as an undesirable status to be endured until the “right person” arrives. Consequently, many people spend their single years counting what they lack rather than cultivating what they can become. The assumption is that life will truly begin once marriage begins. The Bible presents a radically different perspective.

Consider the word single. A single diamond is not half a diamond. A single tree is not half a tree. A single home is not half a home. The word single naturally describes something that is complete and identifiable as a stand-alone entity. We reserve words like fragment, piece, or portion for things that are incomplete. In the same way, God’s intention was never for a single man or woman to think of themselves as only half of a person waiting for another half to complete them.

This does not suggest that any human being is fully finished. None of us is. We are all continually being transformed by the Spirit of God.

The distinction is that a person may be whole without being finished. You can possess a settled identity, healthy emotional development, meaningful purpose and spiritual maturity while still growing throughout your life.

The Genesis account quietly establishes this principle. Before Eve was ever introduced, Adam already possessed an identity.

God had given him work, responsibility, authority, purpose and fellowship with Himself. Adam was not wandering through the Garden trying to discover who he was. He was already functioning within God’s design for his life. Therefore, when God declared:

It is not good that the man should be alone GENESIS 2:18

He was not announcing Adam's deficiency. He was announcing that Adam's assignment would ultimately require partnership.

Marriage, therefore, was never God's strategy for completing an incomplete person. Marriage was His design for joining two whole people in covenant so they might accomplish more together than either could accomplish alone. This changes the way we understand singleness altogether.

Singleness is not merely the absence of a spouse. It is God's developmental season in which He forms a person into a mature, identifiable and self-governing adult whose identity, value and purpose do not depend upon romantic attachment. The greatest tragedy is not remaining unmarried. The greatest tragedy is arriving at marriage without ever becoming whole.

That is why being single is necessary.

#1 TO DEVELOP A CLEAR IDENTITY

Identity: A settled understanding of who you are, Whose you are, and why you exist.

Before Adam was ever given a wife, God gave him an identity. He knew who he was before he ever knew who she was. This order is not accidental; it reveals God's design for every healthy relationship. Identity is intended to precede intimacy. God never intended another human being to answer the questions that only He can answer: Who am I? Why am I here? What is my worth? Those questions are settled in His presence long before they should ever be tested in a relationship.

Healthy relationships do not create identity; they reveal it. When a person lacks a settled identity, they often enter relationships searching for validation rather than offering love. They become vulnerable to manipulation because they confuse acceptance with value. They tolerate dishonor because they fear rejection more than they value themselves. Conversely, a person who knows who they are can love freely because they are not asking another person to complete what God has already established.

Singleness provides the invaluable opportunity to discover your convictions, values, gifts, boundaries and purpose without the distraction of constantly adapting yourself to someone else's expectations. It is the season in which you become comfortable with the person God created you to be. When identity is established in Christ, you stop chasing acceptance and begin living from acceptance. You understand that your worth is not determined by who chooses you, who leaves you or who overlooks you. Your value was established by your Creator and confirmed at the cross.

Your spouse should become a companion to your identity, never the source of it. If you do not know who you are before marriage, you will spend much of your marriage trying to become someone you were never created to be.

GENESIS 2:15-18

Before Eve was created, Adam had already received purpose, responsibility and fellowship with God.

Before Jesus performed His first miracle, the Father declared, "You are My beloved Son; in You I am well pleased," establishing identity before performance.

"The greatest gift you can give another person is a healthy, differentiated self." — Dr. David Schnarch

#2 TO DEVELOP INTO A SELF-SUFFICIENT ADULT CAPABLE OF INTERDEPENDENCE

One of the great misconceptions about marriage is that it transforms immature people into mature adults. It does not. Marriage magnifies whatever character already exists. If a person is irresponsible before marriage, marriage will expose that irresponsibility. If they lack emotional discipline before marriage, marriage will reveal it under pressure. God never intended marriage to become adult daycare where one spouse is forced to compensate for the other's unwillingness to grow.

Biblical self-sufficiency does not mean independence from God or isolation from people. It means developing the maturity to manage your own life

spiritually, emotionally, financially and practically. Healthy adults accept responsibility for their choices, regulate their emotions, steward their resources wisely and solve problems without expecting someone else to rescue them. These qualities create freedom within a marriage because each spouse contributes strength rather than continually requiring rescue.

This is why healthy relationships are built upon interdependence, not dependency. Dependency says, "I need you in order to function." Interdependence says, "I have learned to function responsibly, and I now choose to build my life with you." One mindset creates pressure while the other creates partnership.

God never intended one spouse to carry the emotional, financial and spiritual weight of two adults.

Singleness is the season in which responsibility becomes character. It teaches discipline before freedom is shared, stewardship before resources are combined and emotional stability before lives are intertwined. Marriage should multiply strength, not compensate for irresponsibility.

1 THESSALONIANS 4:11-12 KJV

11 And that ye study to be quiet, and to do your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you; 12 That ye may walk honestly toward them that are without, and that ye may have lack of nothing.

Paul exhorts believers to lead quiet lives, mind their own affairs and work with their own hands, emphasizing personal responsibility and honorable living.

2 THESSALONIANS 3:10

If anyone is not willing to work, let him not eat, underscoring the biblical principle of personal accountability.

"The maturity of love means we become responsible for ourselves so we can freely give ourselves to another." — Dr.

Henry Cloud

#3 TO DEEPEN YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

One of the greatest gifts of singleness is uninterrupted devotion. Every season of life comes with unique opportunities and unique responsibilities. Marriage is a beautiful covenant ordained by God, but it also requires a husband and wife to devote significant time, energy and attention to one another.

Singleness provides a season in which those legitimate responsibilities have not yet arrived, allowing a person to pursue an uncommon depth of intimacy with God. Rather than viewing singleness as an empty season waiting to be filled by another person, it should be viewed as sacred time in which God fills your heart with Himself.

The Apostle Paul addresses this very principle in his first letter to the Corinthians. He explains that the unmarried believer is able to focus upon pleasing the Lord with fewer competing responsibilities, while the married believer must rightly divide attention between the things of God and the legitimate concerns of family life. Paul is not elevating singleness above marriage; he is reminding us that every season has a divine stewardship. To waste the opportunities unique to singleness is to miss one of God's greatest developmental gifts.

One of the greatest mistakes people make is expecting a spouse to satisfy needs that only God can satisfy. They expect another person to provide permanent peace, unwavering security and unshakable identity. Those expectations inevitably produce disappointment because no human being was designed to occupy the throne of your heart. Whenever a person becomes your emotional savior, they eventually become your greatest disappointment. Only God possesses the consistency, wisdom and faithfulness necessary to sustain the deepest needs of the human soul.

Healthy singleness teaches you how to seek God's voice before seeking human approval. It teaches you to pray before reacting, worship before worrying and trust before controlling. The person who has learned to walk closely with God while single enters marriage with an inner stability that

blesses the relationship rather than burdening it. They do not expect their spouse to become their source because they have already discovered that Christ is sufficient.

Before another person occupies your heart, God should occupy the throne of your heart. Your spouse should become one of God's greatest blessings in your life, but never His replacement.

1 CORINTHIANS 7:32-35 32 But I would have you without carefulness. He that is unmarried careth for the things that belong to the Lord, how he may please the Lord: 33 But he that is married careth for the things that are of the world, how he may please his wife. 34 There is difference also between a wife and a virgin. The unmarried woman careth for the things of the Lord, that she may be holy both in body and in spirit: but she that is married careth for the things of the world, how she may please her husband. 35 And this I speak for your own profit; not that I may cast a snare upon you, but for that which is comely, and that ye may attend upon the Lord without distraction.

Paul teaches that the unmarried believer has a unique opportunity to devote undivided attention to the things of the Lord, while the married believer must also fulfill the sacred responsibilities of marriage.

MATTHEW 6:33

But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

Jesus established God's Kingdom as the believer's first priority long before any earthly relationship.

"A good marriage is made up of two people who love God more than they love each other." — Gary Thomas

#4 TO HEAL WHAT LIFE HAS BROKEN

One of the greatest misconceptions about relationships is that love heals unresolved wounds. While healthy love certainly creates an environment in which healing can continue, it was never intended to replace the healing work of God. Many people begin dating while emotionally bleeding. They sincerely desire healthy relationships, yet they unknowingly carry unresolved pain into every connection they make. Childhood rejection becomes adult insecurity. Abandonment becomes clinginess. Betrayal becomes suspicion. Neglect becomes an insatiable need for validation. Without realizing it, they ask the present to repair what was damaged in the past.

This is why singleness is such a valuable season. It gives you the space to honestly examine your heart before another person's life becomes intertwined with your own. Rather than repeatedly changing partners, God often calls us to examine our patterns. Why do we continue attracting the same unhealthy relationships? Why do we react so intensely to certain situations? Why does conflict immediately trigger fear, withdrawal or anger? These questions are rarely answered by finding another relationship. They are answered by allowing the Holy Spirit to search the hidden places of the heart.

David understood this process when he cried, "Search me, O God." Healing begins with honesty. God cannot heal the wounds we continue pretending do not exist. Whether the injury came through parental neglect, abuse, betrayal, disappointment or repeated rejection, the Lord specializes in restoring broken hearts. He not only forgives sin; He also heals the damage sin has left behind.

Healing is not merely something you do for yourself. It is one of the greatest gifts you will ever give your future spouse, your children and everyone God brings into your life. Every wound that heals under God's care becomes one less wound you unintentionally inflict upon someone else. Healthy marriages are not built by perfect people; they are built by people who have allowed God to confront, heal and transform the deepest places of their hearts.

Do not waste your singleness merely looking for love. Allow God to restore the parts of you that never should have been broken in the first place.

PSALM 147:3

He healeth the broken in heart, and bindeth up their wounds.

God's heart has always been to restore those who have been wounded by life.

PROVERBS 4:23

Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life."

The condition of the heart ultimately determines the direction of the life.

"We repeat what we don't repair." — Dr. Henry Cloud

#5 TO DISCOVER YOUR PURPOSE

One of the most profound observations in the Genesis narrative is that Adam received an assignment before he received a companion. Before God brought Eve into his life, He placed Adam in the Garden "to dress it and to keep it." This order reveals a timeless principle: purpose precedes partnership. God intended every individual to discover why they exist before they determine with whom they will spend their lives. Purpose is not something marriage creates. It is something marriage should strengthen.

Many people unknowingly reverse God's order. They spend years pursuing relationships while neglecting the assignment God has placed upon their lives. Consequently, relationships become their purpose instead of becoming part of their purpose. This creates enormous pressure because no human being can successfully become another person's reason for living. Whenever purpose is absent, relationships often become idols. They occupy the emotional and spiritual space that belongs exclusively to God.

Purpose gives direction to every other decision. It influences who you date, where you live, how you steward your gifts and even how you spend your time. A person who understands God's assignment for their life evaluates relationships differently because they recognize that not every opportunity advances God's calling. They are able to walk away from unhealthy relationships because they understand that preserving purpose is more important than preserving companionship.

Jesus modeled this beautifully. He loved people deeply, served sacrificially and invested Himself in meaningful relationships, yet He never permitted those relationships to distract Him from His Father's will. Every decision was filtered through His divine assignment. In the same way, your greatest calling should never be postponed until someone enters your life. Marriage should complement your purpose, not replace it.

The healthiest people wake each morning with a reason to live that existed before romance ever arrived. They understand that God has entrusted them with gifts, influence and opportunities that are bigger than relationship status. A person who has discovered purpose is far less likely to lose themselves in unhealthy relationships because they know why they were created.

Purpose precedes partnership because God's assignment for your life is larger than your relationship status.

GENESIS 2:15

15 And the LORD God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it.

Before Eve was created, Adam was entrusted with responsibility, revealing that God establishes purpose before partnership.

EPHESIANS 2:10

For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

Every believer has been created intentionally for a life of divine purpose.

"A good marriage is two people helping each other become what God created them to be." — Tim Keller

#6 TO BECOME AN ASSET

One of the most honest questions a single person can ask is, "If someone married me today, what would they actually gain?" We often spend years making lists describing the qualities we desire in a future spouse while giving far less attention to the qualities we ourselves bring into a relationship. Yet healthy relationships are sustained not merely by what we receive but by what we consistently contribute. God's purpose for singleness is to transform us from people who primarily need into people who meaningfully add.

Marriage is not merely the joining of two lives; it is the combining of two inventories. Each person brings strengths and weaknesses, habits and attitudes, wounds and wisdom, discipline and dysfunction. The question is whether your inventory makes another person's life richer or heavier. Do you consistently bring peace into difficult situations, or do you multiply conflict? Do you create emotional safety, or do people constantly have to walk on eggshells around your moods? Do you inspire confidence through integrity, or do you create anxiety because your life lacks consistency? These are uncomfortable questions, but they are necessary because they reveal whether we are becoming an asset or remaining a liability.

The virtuous woman described in Proverbs 31 illustrates this principle beautifully. The Scripture says that "the heart of her husband safely trusts in her." Why? Because her life consistently added value. She strengthened her household through wisdom, diligence, generosity and godly character. Likewise, a godly man is called to love sacrificially, lead with humility and provide stability rather than confusion. In both cases, the emphasis is not upon what each person extracts from the relationship but upon what each contributes to it.

Healthy love always asks, "How can I serve? How can I strengthen? How can I make this person's life better?" Immaturity asks the opposite question: "What can I get? What can you do for me? What are you going to fix in my life?" The first mindset builds covenant; the second creates consumption. When two consumers marry each other, disappointment is inevitable because both are trying to withdraw from an account into which neither has consistently deposited.

Singleness is God's opportunity to increase your relational value. It is the season to become emotionally dependable, financially responsible, spiritually mature, intellectually curious and personally disciplined. It is

where you learn to communicate honestly, resolve conflict graciously, forgive quickly and love sacrificially. These qualities are not developed automatically on the wedding day. They are cultivated long before the vows are spoken.

When God prepares you for marriage, He is not merely preparing someone for you. He is preparing you for someone. Therefore, ask yourself not only, "Who am I looking for?" but also, "Who is God shaping me to become?" The greatest blessing you can offer another person is not perfection but consistent value born from a life that has been transformed by Christ.

PHILIPPIANS 2:3-4

Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others.

Paul reminds believers that maturity expresses itself through humble service rather than self-centered ambition.

PROVERBS 31:11-12

The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her... She will do him good and not evil all the days of her life."

Trust is built by consistently adding value to another person's life.

"The quality of your relationships is determined by the quality of the person you choose to become." — Dr. John Gottman

#7 TO BECOME THE KIND OF PERSON YOU WOULD LIKE TO MARRY

Perhaps the greatest irony in modern relationships is that many people have developed detailed standards for the person they hope to marry while investing very little effort into becoming that person themselves. They desire honesty but have not fully confronted their own inconsistencies. They desire

emotional maturity while refusing to grow emotionally. They desire peace while living in continual turmoil. They desire faithfulness while remaining undisciplined in other areas of life. Healthy relationships begin when we stop asking only, "Who am I looking for?" and begin asking the more difficult question, "Who am I becoming?"

Jesus taught a principle that applies powerfully to relationships when He instructed His followers to remove the beam from their own eye before attempting to remove the speck from someone else's. His point was not that we should ignore the faults of others, but that self-examination must precede evaluation. Personal transformation should always receive greater attention than personal preference.

It is remarkably easy to identify flaws in a potential spouse while overlooking the work God still desires to accomplish within our own hearts.

Singleness provides the ideal environment for this transformation because growth can become your primary focus. It is the season to cultivate integrity until honesty becomes your instinct. It is the season to pursue wisdom until discernment governs your decisions. It is the season to strengthen your faith until trusting God becomes more natural than fearing the future. Every quality you hope to receive from another person should first become a quality you intentionally pursue within yourself.

This principle also changes the way we think about attraction. Healthy people are generally drawn to healthy people. While no one reaches perfection, emotional maturity recognizes emotional maturity. Spiritual depth recognizes spiritual depth. Integrity recognizes integrity. The more you become the person God created you to be, the more likely you are to recognize and appreciate those same qualities in someone else. Instead of being captivated by charisma alone, you begin to value character. Instead of being impressed merely by chemistry, you begin to discern compatibility of purpose, values and spiritual commitment.

The goal of singleness, therefore, is not merely to find the right person. It is to become the right person. When two individuals have committed themselves to continual growth under God's authority, marriage becomes less about completing one another and more about encouraging one another's continued transformation. That process never ends. Even after the wedding, both husband and wife should remain committed to becoming wiser, healthier, more loving and more Christlike than they were the year before.

The best way to attract a healthy person is to become one. God is far more interested in preparing your character than simply arranging your circumstances.

MATTHEW 7:3-5 KJV

3 And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye? 4 Or how wilt thou say to thy brother, Let me pull out the mote out of thine eye; and, behold, a beam is in thine own eye? 5 Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye.

Jesus teaches that honest self-examination must precede the correction of others, reminding us that personal transformation is the foundation of healthy relationships.

GALATIANS 6:7

Whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.

The character we cultivate today becomes the harvest we experience tomorrow.

"We tend to attract people who are compatible with our level of emotional health." — Dr. Henry Cloud

CONCLUSION

One of the greatest misconceptions about singleness is that it ends on the wedding day. In reality, only the status ends. The disciplines that healthy singleness produces should remain for the rest of your life.

A healthy husband never stops developing his identity in Christ. A healthy wife never stops nurturing her relationship with God. Both continue healing where healing is needed. Both continue growing in purpose. Both continue becoming greater assets to one another. Both continue striving to become the kind of spouse they would want to be married to. In other words, the very work that prepared them for marriage becomes the work that sustains their

marriage.

This understanding transforms the way we read Genesis. The Bible says that a husband and wife become one flesh, but it never says they become one person. Adam never ceased being Adam. Eve never ceased being Eve. God united two distinct individuals in covenant without erasing their individual identities, gifts or responsibilities. Healthy marriages are built by two people who continue pursuing wholeness while simultaneously pursuing oneness.

This is why marriage cannot cure incompleteness. It can expose it, magnify it and, by God's grace, become a context in which continued growth takes place—but it cannot replace the personal work each individual must do before the Lord. No spouse can pray your prayers, heal your wounds, discover your purpose or establish your identity. Those responsibilities remain deeply personal.

Therefore, do not view your season of singleness as an interruption to life. It is life. It is God's classroom for developing the character, convictions and maturity that will bless every relationship you ever have.

Whether God ultimately calls you to marriage or to lifelong singleness, the objective remains the same: become a whole, spiritually mature and purpose-driven disciple of Jesus Christ.

Remember this truth:

The status of singleness may end at the altar, but the discipline of singleness should remain until your last breath.

That is how healthy people build healthy marriages. And that is why being single is necessary.

