

Lead out of your singleness/ marriage



SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 54:5

Jeremiah 3:14

Ephesians 5:25-27

Revelation 19:7

Genesis 2:24

Matthew 19:11-12

1 Corinthians 7:6

1 Corinthians 7:32-35

Ecclesiastes 4:9

Romans 12:13

Proverbs 31:28-29

John 6:35

Mark 12:25

OVERVIEW

This week we explored the second key to growing as emotionally healthy disciples: leading out of our marriage or singleness. We discussed two foundational points to address this topic.

Firstly, our culture often connects horizontal relational status (such as marriage or singleness) to identity. However, as followers of Jesus, we must live in the truth that our vertical relational

status with God defines who we are. We are loved by God, and Scripture uses the metaphor of marriage to explain this.

Secondly, our culture teaches us to ignore our limits, often encouraging us to give excessive time, effort, and energy to work without considering the consequences. Biblically, we understand that God has created us with limits, and ignoring these limits significantly impacts our personal lives.

We defined what we mean by marriage and singleness:

- **Marriage:** One man and one woman who form a one-flesh union through a covenantal vow (Genesis 2:24).
- **Single:** A status that can be voluntarily chosen or involuntarily imposed, and it can be temporary or long-term.
 - **Vowed celibates:** Individuals who take a lifelong vow to remain single and maintain lifelong abstinence as a means of living out their commitment to God.
 - **Dedicated celibates:** Individuals committed to celibacy as long as they are single, as an expression of their commitment to Christ.

We then explored two key ways to grow in leading out of our marriage or singleness.

Make it Your First Ambition

Singleness:

- **Self-Care** (1 Cor 7:32-35): Live with undivided attention to Jesus.

- **Community** (Ecclesiastes 4:9): Avoid isolation and engage deeply with the community Jesus has given you.
- **Hospitality** (Romans 12:13): Open your home and your life to others.

Marriage:

- **Sacrificial Love** (1 Cor 7:32-35): Focus on your spouse's flourishing.
- **Growing Passion** (Ephesians 5:25): Commit to and maintain enthusiasm for your spouse's well-being.
- **Honour** (Proverbs 31:28-29): Speak words of encouragement and affirmation to and about your spouse.

Make it Your Loudest Gospel Message

Singleness:

- **Bear Witness to the Sufficiency and Fullness of Jesus Christ** (John 6:35): In a culture that preaches that fullness and satisfaction are found in sexual relationships, demonstrate that true fulfillment is found only in Christ.
- **Bear Witness to the Reality of the Resurrection** (Mark 12:25): Live out the eternal hope that our ultimate hope is in Jesus and His resurrection and return, not in earthly marriage.

Marriage:

- **Make Visible God's Love for the World** (Ephesians 5:25-27): Love in a way that reveals Jesus' love for the Church and His invitation to the world.

QUESTIONS

1. Considering the two foundational points we discussed, what encouraged and challenged you personally?
2. How would making your marriage or singleness your first ambition affect how you live your life?
3. How can you use your marriage or singleness as your loudest gospel message?
4. How can we grow as a church and a small group in honoring both marriage and singleness?