

Love and Marriage

Lesson 2: Singleness & Dating

Questions & Objectives

- What is the gift of singleness? What benefits come with singleness?
- Is singleness a calling or a temporary state? What should we do as singles?
- When and how should Christians date? How should this look in comparison to our culture?
- How can I, as a parent, prepare and equip my child for dating?

Lesson

The Gift of Singleness

⁶I say this as a concession, not as a command:
⁷I wish that all men were [single] as I am. But each man has his own gift from God;
one has this gift, another has that.
- 1 Corinthians 7:6-7 (BSB)

How can singleness be a gift?

Our Heroes

First, we should remember that both _____ and _____ were single.

- Of the three major monotheistic religions (Judaism, Christianity, and Islam) only Christianity affirms singleness.
- Jesus _____ both faithful Biblical marriage AND chaste singleness.

A Good Gift

The word for "gift," *charisma*, means "grace gift."

Is this always associated with spiritual gifts, or does it also have broader applications?

We're all single at least once in our lives.



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Good Gifts Aren't Always Warm & Fuzzy

How does the explanation that "being content to be single means you have 'the gift' of singleness and wanting to marry means you don't," fall short of why and how God gives gifts to us?

- It reduces God's good gift to a subjective _____ or desire.
- _____ can't be the determining factor for any gift from God.

What other grace-gifts can you think of that were associated with emotions other than happiness or contentment?

**GOD IS LESS CONCERNED ABOUT OUR HAPPINESS
AND MORE CONCERNED ABOUT OUR HOLINESS.**

Advantages of Singleness

Whether for a time or whether celibacy is a call over your life, there are advantages of being single.

What practical advantages are there to being single?

1. Those who are single are free to _____ on the Lord.
 - a. Read 1 Corinthians 7:32-35
 - b. Verse 35 is key: Paul is saying this for their benefit, not to lay a restraint on them. Marriage is good. Singleness is good, too.
2. You have and can sow into _____ children.
 - a. Explain the concept of a "spiritual father."
 - b. What does this mean in practical, daily living?
3. If/when you marry, don't return to this _____ or relationship.
 - a. As a single person, what would you like to accomplish?
 - b. Will this be easier or more difficult with a partner?



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What to Do While You Wait

1. _____
2. Grow Your _____ with God
3. _____ Yourself

WATCH

[Video: Jordan B. Peterson | 2022 Commencement Address](#)

(Credit: Hillsdale College: minutes 28-31)

(Music Credit: Audiomachine: Maya)

Bring blessing, not baggage!

REFLECTION Why is it important to consider what we bring to our relationships, rather than just what we want/need? Has your view of “Ask, Knock, Seek” changed at all in light of what we watched?

Upright Dating in a Fallen World

Who you partner with matters! List potential downsides of partnering with the wrong person:

When dating, we should ask, “Will this person partner well with _____ on my life?”

Your partner is pertinent!



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Attraction

For homework, watch the following video.

WATCH

[Video: Wisdom for When You LIKE Someone](#)

(Credit: Impact Video Ministries)

**JUST BECAUSE YOU'RE ATTRACTED TO SOMEONE
DOESN'T MEAN YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE WITH THEM.**

Godly (Guardrails in) Dating

How should we conduct ourselves when dating as Christians?

Now flee youthful lusts and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those calling on the Lord out of pure a heart. – 2 Timothy 2:22 (BLB)

WATCH

[Video: Christian Dating: What to Do](#)

(Credit: Impact Video Ministries)

There are four guidelines, according to the video:

1. Set up Physical _____
 - a. Create these with an eye toward maintaining holiness, rather than what you'll allow yourself to do.
2. Check Their _____ – and Yours!
 - a. Consider what Amos 3:3 means in the context of relationship: "Can two people walk together without agreeing on the direction?" (NLT)



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3. Live Life, Not _____
 - a. Get to know their family and friends – and how they treat them.
4. Love _____ More
 - a. What does this look like to you?

Dating Apps

What are the benefits and drawbacks of dating apps?

Dating Guidelines for Parents

1. Keep _____!
Read Hebrews 10:24. Consider how to spur yourself, your spouse, and your family toward love and good deeds.
2. Know Your _____.
Are they ready to date?
3. Know Your _____.
Understand what it looks like to implement Proverbs 22:6 in your family.
 - Remember, you're not raising children, you're raising men and women.
4. Don't be a _____.
Read Ephesians 6:4. How will you bring balance to your role and your relationship with your child?

The Conclusion

Whether single, dating, or married, we're called to serve the Lord!

Only let each person lead the life that the Lord has assigned to him, and to which God has called him. – 1 Corinthians 7:17a (ESV)



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Wrap-Up

- Singleness is a _____ gift in and of itself.
 - Wherever God places you – whether temporarily or lifelong – the focus is bringing honor to God.
- Singleness is often a temporary state and an _____ to grow strong in the Lord, understand your identity and calling, and improve yourself as a future partner.
- Your partner is pertinent – who you partner with _____!
- It's important to structure your _____ relationship so that it brings glory to God, maintains your holiness, and avoids temptation.
- As parents, we are tasked with overseeing our children; looking to their well-being; and setting _____ and rules that promote godliness.
 - We shouldn't seek to prohibit dating, but rather to empower our children to make wise decisions.

Follow-Through

Meditate

1 Corinthians 7:1-40

Consider

Where has God currently positioned me (single, dating, married)? Where and what has He called me to? How can I best fulfill my current role and future calling to bring Him glory?

Are there any areas where I'm not treating my significant other as I ought to be? What can I change to improve this?

Act

If you've identified areas of improvement, take tangible steps to improve this week.

