



IMPACT COMMUNITIES
real life. real impact.

**Sequoia Impact Communities are a place to
experience real life & real impact.**

To get plugged in email:

impactcommunities@sequoiachurch.org

**God's Heart for Singleness & His Church
#19 of 33— March 4, 2018**

1) Take some time to discuss how your IC has been and will live out the Kingdom of Jesus together.

- In what ways have we been living like family recently? How will we live out our family identity in the coming week?
- How have we lived as servants to one another or to our world this past week? What needs or opportunities to serve is God asking us to lean into?
- How have we lived on mission where we live, work, play, or went this past week? Who do we know that needs to hear the good news of Jesus?

2. What did you find most helpful, encouraging, or challenging in this message?

3. What have you experienced or observed regarding singleness in the context of our culture? What about the context of the church?

4. Read 1 Corinthians 7:25-40. What is Paul saying about singleness and marriage in the context of advancing the Kingdom of Jesus?

5. What do you think or feel about the claim that “singleness is a universal call on each of our lives”? Do you agree? What are the implications?

6. What would it look like in your own life, and in your Impact Community, if you pursued Jesus’ Kingdom and the fullness of life He offers in whatever context or life situation you are in?

7. Read Isaiah 56:1-5. What is the significance of God’s promise in this passage as we consider singleness in the church?

8. The message mentioned 3 broad ways we can apply the Big Idea from this passage. Which resonated most with you? What tangible next steps has God laid on your heart?

9. How can you and your Impact Community practically live out our identity as “first family” in Christ?

10. If you are married, how can you open your life and nuclear family to single members of our church family? If you are single, how can you boldly engage with the messy lives of couples/nuclear families in our church family?



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SEQUOIA NOTES

Today's Sequoia @10:10 Message...

God's Heart for Singleness and His Church

With Phil Harwood, Trustee
March 4, 2018



• **Marriage is a gift. And singleness is a gift.**

1 Corinthians 7:7 – “But I wish everyone were single, just as I am. Yet each person has a special gift from God, of one kind or another.”

1 Corinthians 7-25-40 Now regarding your question about the young women who are not yet married. I do not have a command from the Lord for them. But the Lord in his mercy has given me wisdom that can be trusted, and I will share it with you. ²⁶ Because of the present crisis, I think it is best to remain as you are. ²⁷ If you have a wife, do not seek to end the marriage. If you do not have a wife, do not seek to get married. ²⁸ But if you do get married, it is not a sin. And if a young woman gets married, it is not a sin. However, those who get married at this time will have troubles, and I am trying to spare you those problems. ²⁹ But let me say this, dear brothers and sisters: The time that remains is very short. So from now on, those with wives should not focus only on their marriage. ³⁰ Those who weep or who rejoice or who buy things should not be absorbed by their weeping or their joy or their possessions. ³¹ Those who use the things of the world should not become attached to them. For this world as we know it will soon pass away. ³² I want you to be free from the concerns of this life. An unmarried man can spend his time doing the Lord's work and thinking how to please him. ³³ But a married man has to think about his earthly responsibilities and how to please his wife. ³⁴ His interests are divided. In the same way, a woman who is no longer married or has never been married can be devoted to the Lord and holy in body and in spirit. But a married woman has to think about her earthly responsibilities and how to please her husband. ³⁵ I am saying this for your benefit, not to place restrictions on you. I want you to do whatever will help you serve the Lord best, with as few distractions as possible. ³⁶ But if a man thinks that he's treating his fiancée improperly and will inevitably give in to his passion, let him marry her as he wishes. It is not a sin. ³⁷ But if he has decided firmly not to marry and there is no urgency and he can control his passion, he does well not to marry. ³⁸ So the person who marries his fiancée does well, and the person who doesn't marry does even better. ³⁹ A wife is bound to her husband as long as he lives. If her husband dies, she is free to marry anyone she wishes, but only if he loves the Lord. ⁴⁰ But in my opinion it would be better for her to stay single, and I think I am giving you counsel from God's Spirit when I say this. ³⁹ A wife is bound to her husband as long as he lives. If her husband dies, she is free to marry anyone she wishes, but only if he loves the Lord. ⁴⁰ But in my opinion it would be better for her to stay single, and I think I am giving you counsel from God's Spirit when I say this.

- **Singleness is a universal calling on each of our lives, and an invitation to pursue intimacy with God first.**

Colossians 3:1-3 – “Since you have been raised to new life with Christ, set your sights on the realities of heaven, where Christ sits in the place of honour at God's right hand.² Think about the things of heaven, not the things of earth. ³ For you died to this life, and your real life is hidden with Christ in God.”

- **#1 priority for Christians is to pursue Jesus' Kingdom and the fullness of life He offers in whatever context or life situation we are in.**

- **Reality: Single Christians are in a position to have a powerful Kingdom impact.**

Big Idea: Singleness is a gift and an essential part of the Church family.

How do we apply this in our lives and our Church family?

- 1) Pursue intimacy with God first.

- 2) Prioritize the Kingdom of Jesus in your life.

Isaiah 56:1-5

- 3) Live as a real “first family” in Christ.

- **Challenge to those who are married: open your lives and nuclear families.**

- **Challenge to those who are single: boldly engage in our messy lives.**

The Translation of the Bible Scriptures used in today's 10:10 service are from the New Living Translation(NLT).