

Being Single in a Couple's World

Sunday, June 13, 2010
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Message Truth:

Our marital status, whether as a couple or single, is God's concern. Satan has attacked our families with the tool of divorce. Satan's agenda is to divide and conquer. Many people have suffered the painful agony of being widowed or divorced. Some have remarried; others find themselves single and lonely. Today we will discuss what scripture teaches those who have been widowed and those who are single or single again about their marital status.

What the Bible Teaches About Being Single

1. Being single is p_____ to being married.

¹ Now regarding the questions you asked in your letter. Yes, **it is good to live a celibate life.** . . .⁷ I wish everyone were single, just as I am. But God gives to some the gift of marriage, and to others the gift of singleness.

1 Corinthians 7:1,7 (NLT)

¹⁰ Jesus' disciples then said to him, "If this is the case, **it is better not to marry!**" ¹¹ "Not everyone can accept this statement," Jesus said. "Only those whom God helps."
Matthew 19:10-11 (NLT)

2. Singleness occurs for v_____ r_____.

¹⁰ Jesus' disciples then said to him, "If this is the case, **it is better not to marry!**" ¹¹ "Not everyone can accept this statement," Jesus said. "Only those whom God helps."

¹² **Some are born as eunuchs, some have been made eunuchs by others, and some choose not to marry for the**

sake of the Kingdom of Heaven. Let anyone accept this who can."
Matthew 19:10-12 (NLT)

3. Paul taught us that singleness is a s_____ g_____.

¹ Now regarding the questions you asked in your letter. Yes, **it is good to live a celibate life.** . . .⁷ I wish everyone were single, just as I am. But God gives to some the gift of marriage, and to others the gift of singleness. ⁸ **So I say to those who aren't married and to widows—it's better to stay unmarried, just as I am.** ⁹ **But if they can't control themselves, they should go ahead and marry. It's better to marry than to burn with lust.**

1 Corinthians 7:1,7-9 (NLT)

How do you know if you have this gift?

Those with the gift of singleness will not burn with lust.

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.** . . .
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.**

1 Corinthians 7:32-35,39-40 (NLT)

Some are single because they have been made single.

What the Bible Teaches Concerning Divorce

³² *But I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for marital unfaithfulness, causes her to become an adulteress, and anyone who marries the divorced woman commits adultery.* Matthew 5:32

⁸ *Jesus replied, "Moses permitted you to divorce your wives because your hearts were hard. But it was not this way from the beginning. ⁹ I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for marital unfaithfulness, and marries another woman commits adultery."* Matthew 19:8-9

¹⁵ *But if the unbeliever leaves, let him do so. A believing man or woman is not bound in such circumstances; God has called us to live in peace.* 1 Corinthians 7:15

The Bible allows for divorce in the following circumstances:

1. A _____
2. A _____
3. A _____

What the Bible Teaches Concerning Remarriage

The Bible prefers that the unmarried remain unmarried.

⁸ *Now to the unmarried and the widows I say: It is good for them to stay unmarried, as I am.* 1 Corinthians 7:8

- In Matthew, the Bible allows for the faithful partner to remarry.
- In Corinthians, the believer is free to remarry if he or she chooses.

Other Lingerin Issues

¹⁵ *But if the unbeliever leaves, let him do so. A believing man or woman is not bound in such circumstances; God has called us to live in peace.* 1 Corinthians 7:15

¹⁴ *For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you.* Matthew 6:14

Principles for the Single or Single Again

- ① Accept that s _____ can be a s _____
o _____.

Contentment comes from the Lord.

¹¹ *... I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am. ¹² I know how to get along with humble means, and I also know how to live in prosperity; in any and every circumstance I have learned the secret of being filled and going hungry, both of having abundance and suffering need. ¹³ I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.*

Philippians 4:11-13 (NASB)

One can live a satisfied, fulfilled, and content single life.

- ② Assume r _____ for y _____.
Examine y _____ r _____ with C _____.
Examine y _____ other r _____.
- ③ Get a l _____ — yours!
Realize that a g _____ l _____ is p _____.
- ④ Practical helps for d _____ with d _____.

Divorce is NOT the unpardonable sin!