AGUIDE TO SINGLENESS, RELATIONSHIPS, AND MARRIAGE II/24/23

TS GOD CALLING YOU TO SINGLENESS OR MARRIAGE?



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Singleness 1

Not everyone is called to marriage. There are some people that have the gift of singleness or celibacy. People with the gift of singleness have no desire for marriage and can be single their whole life.

Marriage is a blessing but so is singleness. When one is single that person can focus on pleasing the Lord and doing what He has called them to do.

When you are single, you can focus more on your relationship with Jesus Christ and serving Him and His kingdom on earth.

1 Corinthians 7:32-35

"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."

Singleness 2

The apostle Paul remained single. He knew that while being single, he was able to serve the Lord without distraction. He was able to finish the work that God gave Him to do on earth. Marriage was not part of God's plan for Paul's life. Paul was a missionary. His desire was to preach the gospel and to win the lost. Paul's desire was to do the will of the Lord Jesus Christ and to serve Him and to make His glory known.

Paul knew that if he was to marry there would be distractions. When you marry your focus is divided. When you are married you are focused on pleasing your wife or husband rather than God alone.

Paul spoke in 1 Corinthians 7:35 and said, "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."

Singleness 3

Before considering marriage, you first want to pray and seek the Lord on whether or not marriage is His will for your life. If you have that desire for marriage then, most likely it is His will. After that, you want to ask the Father to send you a godly spouse in His right timing. You, also, want to ask Him to prepare you for marriage and to prepare the one that He has for you.

God may put you in a season of preparation and even isolation before you meet your spouse because He wants to see if you could handle the blessing when it comes. Some people will ruin a relationship or marriage if they receive it too soon. That is why God may need to put us through testing and trials before we can receive the promise that He has for us. We may need to pass these tests before we can take hold of the promise. God will send that right person but He wants to make sure that we are ready and that person is ready too.

Why people settle

Many people do not want to wait to get married and have children. Many are in a rush and do not want to wait on God and His timing for the one that He has for them. Many are pressured by friends and family to go out and date and marry. People end up being with the wrong person because they were influenced by others. There may be parents that have certain expectations for their children to marry and have children at a young age. That is why many children settle for the wrong person and have sex outside of wedlock.

Also, people will end up with the wrong person out of loneliness and desperation. Many do not want to be alone or lonely. Many crave attention from others or validation. Humans want to be loved and cared for which is why many will be with the wrong person. Many people today operate out of their own flesh, feelings, and emotions instead of by the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

True worth and identity

People also settle for the wrong person because they do not know Jesus Christ or their identity in Christ. When you know who are in Christ you will not settle for just any person. You will be willing to wait on God for the one that He has for you.

Many do not know their worth and value and will look for it in a relationship rather than in God alone. Many will look to relationships to bring temporary satisfaction and contentment which can only be found in Jesus Christ. When you know God and that your true worth and value comes from Him and not the world you will be content with waiting and being single.

Psalm 27:14 "Wait on the Lord: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the Lord."

The wrong reasons

Why do people settle? People settle for the wrong reasons. Many settle with impure motives and intentions. A person may settle for a relationship that is outside of God's will because of what that other person has to offer. It could be a lust relationship where the other person just wants sex. A person may stay in a relationship because that other person has money, material possessions, or drugs. So that person will use the other person for what they can get. That is not true love.

When that person stops giving the other person what they want then, that person leaves. This happens all too often in relationships and marriages. Many marriages are not founded on Jesus Christ and the word as well as the love of God. That is why many marriages fail to work. It is not human love or lust that keeps marriages together but the love of God.

John 15:12

"This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you."

Beauty fades

It is the man that finds a wife and not the other way around. Women are not to go out searching for their husbands unless that is what the Lord is leading them to do. Proverbs 18:22 "Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing, and obtaineth favour of the Lord."

Many men today look at the outward appearance and not the heart of a woman. Yes, modesty is important in a woman. The Bible talks about how a woman should dress in modest apparel. (1 Timothy 2:9) But a question to ask is this...Is that woman or man God fearing? Does that woman or man have a relationship with Jesus Christ and seek to be pleasing to Him and to do His will? Is that woman or man of God fulfilling their purpose and calling?

Because that is all that really matters in the end when we stand before our Almighty Maker and Creator. All the beauty in the world will not satisfy a man's desire in a woman. Beauty is going to fade away with time but souls are forever eternal.

2 Corinthians 4:18

"While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal."

Proverbs 31:30

"Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the Lord, she shall be praised."

1 Timothy 2:9-10

"In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array;

10 But (which becometh women professing godliness) with good works."

1 Peter 3:3-4

"Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel;

4 But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price."

Marriage

Marriage is a covenant union between a husband and wife. When both make this covenant with each other they are also making a covenant with God. They are making a promise with not only themselves but God Himself. Marriage is not just two people it is three. God wants to be at the center of every marriage. Many married couples today are unequally yoked because God is not at the center of the marriage. That is why many marriages fail to work because the couples are not putting God first in their lives and in their marriages.

Also, many married couples are not faithful to one another and to God Himself. Couples should spend time together and alone praying, reading, and studying the Bible if they want their marriage to be strong and firm. Marriage should be rooted and grounded on a firm foundation. That foundation should be Jesus Christ and His word.

Luke 6:46-49

"And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?

47 Whosoever cometh to me, and heareth my sayings, and doeth them, I will shew you to whom he is like:

48 He is like a man which built an house, and digged deep, and laid the foundation on a rock: and when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently upon that house, and could not shake it: for it was founded upon a rock.

49 But he that heareth, and doeth not, is like a man that without a foundation built an house upon the earth; against which the stream did beat vehemently, and immediately it fell; and the ruin of that house was great."

Colossians 3:18-19

"Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as it is fit in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives, and be not bitter against them."

Marriage 2

We have an enemy named satan and he has come to kill, steal, and destroy. John 10:10 "The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly."

The enemy wants to cause division and separation amongst married couples. The devil hates marriage. The enemy wants married couples to get a divorce. But God hates divorce. Malachi 2:16 "For the Lord God of Israel says That He hates divorce, For it covers one's garment with violence," Says the Lord of hosts. "Therefore take heed to your spirit, That you do not deal treacherously."

Marriage is not easy. There is no perfect marriage out there. Married couples are to keep their vows "until death do us apart." There is one exception for separation and I will share the Scripture on the next page.

Scriptures on Marriage

Matthew 5:31-32 "Furthermore it has been said, 'Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.' But I say to you that whoever divorces his wife for any reason except sexual immorality causes her to commit adultery; and whoever marries a woman who is divorced commits adultery."

1 Corinthians 7:39 "The wife is bound by the law as long as her husband liveth; but if her husband be dead, she is at liberty to be married to whom she will; only in the Lord."

Mark 10:9 "What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder."

Genesis 2:24 "Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh."

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