

Andy Deane • 3/14/21
IS THIS IT? Singleness

Jesus was single & lived the fullest human life possible!
The Bible honors singleness and offers a few principles:

#1 Singleness is, what it doesn't always feel like, a gift.

1 Corinthians 7:7;27-28, ⁷I wish that all of you were as I am. But each of you has your own gift from God; one has this gift, another has that... ²⁷Are you pledged to a woman? Do not seek to be released. Are you free from such a commitment? Do not look for a wife. ²⁸But if you do marry, you have not sinned...But those who marry will face many troubles in this life, & I want to spare you.

- Paul sure seems to esteem singleness in these verses!
- What are we missing? Paul's perspective on eternity!

#2 Singleness must be seen in light of a future kingdom.

1 Corinthians 7:29-31, ²⁹What I mean, brothers and sisters, is that the time is short. From now on those who have wives should live as if they do not; ³⁰those who mourn, as if they did not; those who are happy, as if they were not; those who buy something, as if it were not theirs to keep; ³¹those who use the things of the world, as if not engrossed in them. For this world in its present form is passing away.

- Everything should be done in light of the future kingdom, that Christ will return one day, and that a desperate world is longing for the gospel.
- In every season of life we have to be ready for that day, and help others become ready too.

#3 Singleness has some amazing advantages.

1 Corinthians 7:32-35, ³²I would like you to be free from concern. An unmarried man is concerned about the Lord's affairs—how he can please the Lord. ³³But a married man is concerned about the affairs of this

world—how he can please his wife— ³⁴and his interests are divided. An unmarried woman is concerned about the Lord's affairs: Her aim is to be devoted to the Lord in both body and spirit. But a married woman is concerned about the affairs of this world—how she can please her husband. ³⁵I am saying this for your own good, not to restrict you, but that you may live in a right way in undivided devotion to the Lord.

- Singles can: (1) avoid the concerns of marriage, (2) have deeper friendships, (3) have freedom in decision making, (4) serve God with undivided devotion.
- The feeling of wholeness that we desire will not be satisfied in marriage. It will be realized as we live more wholeheartedly for Jesus.

#4 Singleness has real grace for today, not hypothetical grace for the future.

Lamentations 3:22-24, ²²Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. ²³They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. ²⁴I say to myself, "The Lord is my portion; therefore I will wait for him."

- Don't stress about the future. Just take a day sized chunk at a time and ask for God's grace for it.

#5 Singleness is not anyone's biggest problem.

Psalms 81:10, I am the Lord your God, who brought you up out of Egypt. Open wide your mouth and I will fill it.

- Our biggest problem is a lack of trust in God.
- Whatever it takes to chase us into God's arms: loneliness, grief, illness. From the perspective of eternity, we won't say it was too high a price to pay for friendship with Christ.
- If marriage were able to fix all our problems then we wouldn't need a savior, just a spouse.

#6 Singleness is not permanent for any believer.

- Marriage to a human reflects the future marriage
God wants to enjoy with us forever in heaven.
- “On that wedding day in heaven, no Christian will feel like they’ve missed out, or have been left out.”
(Rachel Jones)