

Being Single?

Courtesy of

Garner Low

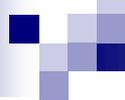
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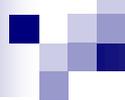
How what comes to mind when you think about being single?

- Here are some examples:



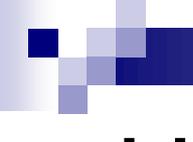
What comes to mind when you think about being single?

- In your groups, discuss the thoughts you have about being single
- Report back to big group

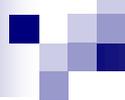


What comes to mind when you think about being single?

- Loneliness?
- Failure?
- Am I missing something?
- What will others think of me?
Embarrassed?
- Something wrong with me?
- Frustration?

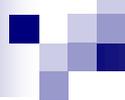


How might you act if you are still single at an age when most of your peers are dating or married?



How might you act if you are still single at an age when most of your peers are dating or married?

- Panic- who is still available?
- Regret- did I break off the right relationship?
- Blame- follow the wrong advice
- Search for your identity
- Focus on yourself- how can I gain pleasure from something else?
- Focus on others- comparing yourself to others



Question:

Being Single is:

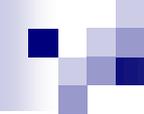
A: Gift from God

B: Stage of Life

C: Better than being married

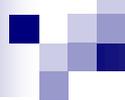
D: Worse than being married

E: All of the above



Objectives

- Bible's teachings about being single vs marriage
- Challenges of being single
- Applications to confront the challenges of being single

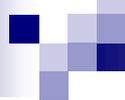


Bible's Teaching

- Read Genesis 2: 18-24, I Corinthians 7:1-7, 25-29
 - What are the advantages of being married?
 - What are the disadvantages of being married?

Bible's Teaching

- Read Genesis 2: 18-24, I Corinthians 7:1-7, 25-35
 - What are the advantages of being married?
 - God gave us marriage because we need it
 - Companionship (Gen 2: 18-24)
 - Avoid sexual immorality (I Cor 7:1-7)
 - What are the disadvantages of being married?
 - More fearsome when under persecution (1 Cor 7:26)
 - Harder to be totally devoted to God (I Cor 7:33-34)



Bible's Teaching

- Read I Corinthians 7: 8-10, 25-35
 - What are the advantages of being single?
 - What are the disadvantages of being single?

Bible's Teaching

- Read I Corinthians 7: 1-10, 25-35

- What are the advantages of being single?

- When under persecution (current crisis), less fearsome for single than married with children (v26)
 - Easier to let go of the detachments of this world (v33)
 - Able to be totally devoted to God (v34)

- What are the disadvantages of being single?

- More likely to fall into sexual immorality

Gift of Singlehood or Celibacy

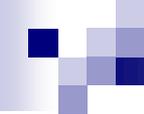
- Gift for some, not for all (I Cor 1:7)
 - No Christians have all the Spiritual gifts (1 Cor 12:4-7)
 - Gifts are given to manifest God's unique purpose for each Christian's life
 - Those with the gift should accept it (Mathew 19: 11-12)
 - “born that way”
 - “made that way by men”
 - “because of the kingdom of heaven”

How do you know if you have the spiritual gift of singlehood/celibacy?

- Deep down in your heart, you know you would not get married even if a reasonable opportunity presented itself
- You are not terribly frustrated by unfulfilled sexual impulses

Summary

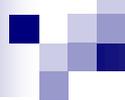
- If you want to be married, feel free to stay open to getting married.
 - Don't trouble yourself with the thoughts of "what if God really wants me to be single".
 - The final proof that God wants you to be married is He making it possible.
- If you know you prefer to stay single, feel free to stay open to be single.
 - Don't worry about whether God really wants you to be married
 - Don't think of yourself as lacking
- If you are not certain, don't feel under pressure to have to resolve this issue right now.
 - Go at your pace, the question will sort itself out over time
 - God has a different timetable for each one of us



Who was, is and will be single?

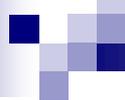
- Everyone

- All of us, in varying stages of life will be single
 - Before marriage
 - Dating
 - Death of a spouse
 - Life long singlehood



What do you see as challenges faced by singles?

- In your small groups, think about at least 4 challenges faced singles



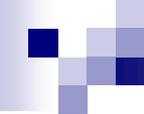
Challenges faced by singles

- Self rejection/hatred
- Loneliness
- Guilt/Failure
- Arrogance/Self centeredness
- Sexual Temptations
- Am I missing something
- What will others think of me
- Frustration
- Bitterness
- Embarrassment
- Worried about the future



How to live as a single person:

- Spend 2-3 minutes and write down some suggestions you have on addressing some of the challenges faced by the single

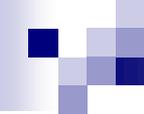


To live as a single person

- Accept who you are and which life stage you are in
 - Psalm 139:14- “I will give thanks to You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Wonderful are Your works, And my soul knows it very well.”
 - God knows all about you and still loves you. You need to love who you are, whether you are still single, dating or married.

To live as a single person

- God accepts us even after we made mistakes
 - No need for shame for mistakes we made in our past relationships or anything else
 - Story of the prodigal son (Luke 15: 11-31)
 - “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.” (1 John 1:9)
- In return, we need to forgive those who wronged us (eg. ex-girlfriends/ boyfriends)



To live as a single person

- Marriage and family is not the only answer to loneliness
 - God is our ultimate companion
 - And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever— John 14: 16
 - Serve others
 - Develop relationships with as many people as possible- both single and married

To live as a single person

■ Avoid living for yourself

- Working long hours, keeping yourself busy with earthly things will not bring you happiness

“Again I saw something meaningless under the sun:

There was a man all alone;

he had neither son nor brother.

There was no end to his toil,

yet his eyes were not content with his wealth.

“For whom am I toiling,” he asked,

“and why am I depriving myself of enjoyment?”

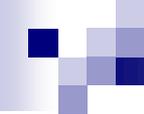
This too is meaningless—

a miserable business!”

Ecc 4: 7-8

To live as a single person

- Avoid being too idle and lazy
 - The craving of a sluggard will be the death of him, because his hands refuse to work. (Prov 21:25)
 - A sluggard's appetite is never filled, but the desires of the diligent are fully satisfied. (Prov 13:4)



To live as a single person

- Take advantage of your single status
 - Devote yourself to God
 - Go on mission trips
 - Serve God whole heartedly in the church
 - Reach out to those who are also single

To live as a single person

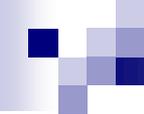
- Fulfill your part in Christ's church

- "For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully." Romans 12:1-8



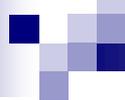
To live as a single person

- Avoid sexual temptation
 - Refer to Walter's workshop
 - Guard your mind and body



To live as a single person

- God will provide for you
 - But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own. (Matt 6: 33-34)



Appeal to those who are dating or married

- Be sensitive to those who are single
- Keep your intimate conversations to yourself
- Include them in your world
- Don't look at singles as lower than you, because they are not



Questions