

## Created: Singleness

### Preamble - A Year Of the Lords Favour

The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because the Lord has anointed me to proclaim (announce) good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, [2] to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, **Isaiah 61:1-2**

- His grace, kindness and love towards us
- Him being present with us and giving us Encounter with him
- The growing family here and depth of relationship
- The increasing growth in prayer
- Stewarding the favour is what is important - Joseph

### Introduction

The first three chapters of Genesis are foundational to our understanding of scripture. All the key themes are there. This series focuses on the facts that human beings are:

#### We are created by design in the image of Creator God

There is ONE GREAT STORY WHICH DOES MOMENTOUSLY ACCOUNT FOR WHERE WE'VE COME FROM, WHY WE'RE HERE AND WHERE WE'RE GOING. ONE 'PLOT-LINE' which reveals and reflects the true meaning of existence. The plot-line of creation, fall, redemption and final consummation contained in the Old and New Testament Scriptures... Rev

#### Dr **David Hilborn**

- In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Genesis 1:1
  - In the beginning God
  - He created, this is his design
  - We are not here by accident but by God's divine design
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- Created to be in friendship with Creator God
  - Created to express his character on earth
  - Created with purpose to steward God's earth and creation and be fruitful
  - Created to reach all peoples with the good news of friendship with God
  - Created male and female - God gives us our identity and helps even in our brokenness
  - Created marriage as God designed and instituted it
  - Today we look at Singleness
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- All of us are single at some point in our lives
  - It is not secondary to be single
  - If your single it's okay to be single, complete and flourish and be fruitful
  - If your married it's okay to be married

- If your single and waiting thats okay too
- If you have been married and now
- Find yourself single in that situation too you can bring glory to God and fruitfulness to his kingdom
- The end goal is not to get married and have children but to look more like Jesus

### 1. See Singleness as a Gift

I 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. [8] Now to the unmarried and the widows I say: It is good for them to stay unmarried, as I do. [9] But if they cannot control themselves, they should marry, for it is better to marry than to burn with passion. **1 Corinthians 7:7-9**

- Singleness as a gift from God
- Its a gift to be embraced and used for God's glory
- Enjoying the season your in without wishing it away

Nevertheless, each person should live as a believer in whatever situation the Lord has assigned to them, just as God has called them. This is the rule I lay down in all the churches. **1 Corinthians 7:17**

But if you do marry, you have not sinned; and if a virgin marries, she has not sinned. But those who marry will face many troubles in this life, and I want to spare you this. [29] What 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; [30] those 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; [31] those who use the things of the world, as if not engrossed in them. For this world in its present form is passing away. [32] I would like you to be free from concern. An unmarried man is concerned about the Lord's affairs---how he can please the Lord. [33] But a married man is concerned about the affairs of this world---how he can please his wife--- [34] and his interests are divided. An unmarried woman or virgin 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. [35] I 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. **1 Corinthians 7:28-35**

- Paul was single - He used his singleness to fulfil God's purpose on the earth
- Jesus was single - He used his singleness to serve the Father
- My example and story at 13 years old watching that the world around me was dating and going out with each other. I made a commitment to give God my teenage years and to serve him - Christian Warriors
- Use your singleness to seek God

- Use your singleness to pursue God
- Use your singleness to be fruitful for the lord
- Use your singleness to be all out for Jesus
- Use your singleness to engage with with Body of Christ
- Use your singleness to reach others for Christ
- And if you have a desire to be married: use your singleness to prepare for marriage

### **Single for the sake of the Kingdom**

<sup>12</sup> For some are eunuchs because they were born that way; others were made that way by men; and others have renounced marriage because of the kingdom of heaven. The one who can accept this should accept it."

#### **Matthew 19:12**

<sup>12</sup> Some, from birth seemingly, never give marriage a thought. Others never get asked—or accepted. And some decide not to get married for kingdom reasons. **Matthew 19:12 (MSG)**

## **2. All Built for Community**

- Whether we are married or single, we are all built for community so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. **Romans 12:5**

Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. [13] For we were all baptised by one Spirit so as to form one body---whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free---and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. [14] Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many. [26] If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honoured, every part rejoices with it. **1 Corinthians 12:12-14,26**

- We are designed to live in community
- No stronger community that the community founded upon Christ

Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ. From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work. **Ephesians 4.15-16**

Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. And in him you too are being built

together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit. **Ephesians 2.19-22**

- No other joining will be strong enough.
- Every other joining will fracture, sprain
- In him we live and move and have our being
- This is a divine joining, connection

### **Conclusion**

- See your singleness as a gift from God
  - Build parameters don't live like the world
- Get into you community

Marriage has its unique potential for magnifying Christ that singleness does not have. Singleness has its unique potential for magnifying Christ that marriage does not have. To God be glory in the Christ-exalting drama of marriage and in the Christ-exalting drama of the single life. **John Piper**