

SINGLE WOMEN (Ages 18 to 59)

Single Women: Esteeming the Gift

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For I would that all men were even as I myself. But every man hath his proper gift of God, one after this manner, and another after that. I say therefore to the unmarried and widows, it is good for them if they abide even as I.

(1 Corinthians 7:7)

The Words of One Single Woman

Many single women need to reevaluate their singleness as a blessing rather than a burden. My singleness is a journey, not some sort of trapped prison. It's a journey of growing in my trust with the Lord and believing that He has a plan for me – and whether it be single or married life, it won't matter. On my journey of singleness, I will move ahead, bold, and confident, taking every step in obedience.

This is the infamous question that singles are asked: **Why aren't you married?** This is the wrong question to ask. It implies lack. But our heavenly Father has said He withholds no good things from His children (Psalm 84:11; Matthew 7:11). The better question to ask ourselves is *What is God doing with and through my singleness?*

I. The Power of the Gift

Paul calls both marriage and singleness a gift from God. He doesn't refer to either as a state of being or as a function, **BUT AS A GIFT.**

A. But What About the Gift

You may be wondering if it's okay to still want to be married and even have children. Yes! Those are also good gifts from God. It's not wrong to desire marriage or to ask God for it. The problem is when we do not humbly and peaceably accept God's will for our lives right now.

B. Single Women vs. Single Women Who Are Single

We need to think of ourselves not as single women, *but as women who are single.* Whether we are single or married, God is working to glorify Himself through those circumstances, and only He knows the best way to accomplish His plans.

II. Be the Right Woman

It is immensely important that single women acknowledge that our femininity is God's initiative and creation. We aren't more feminine because a man is pursuing us. We aren't less feminine because no man is pursuing us. Our femininity is not dependent on marriage or motherhood to be fully expressed. We are feminine from the moment we are conceived because

that is God's design, and He has a purpose for our femininity throughout the various seasons of our lives.

A. Common Temptations of Singleness

There are common temptations of singleness. Five character qualities help exhibit noble character in this season:

1. Trust in God when hopes are deferred
2. Contentment while you are waiting
3. Faithfulness to sow to the future even when you are in tears
4. Graciousness when others receive what you would like
5. Humility to pray to *be* a blessing, rather than to receive a blessing.

III. Contentment in the Wait

The apostle Paul wrote that he had "learned to be content whatever the circumstances" (Philippians 4:11). Notice the word *learned*. We, however, seem to focus first on the "whatever the circumstances" part.

Whatever the cause of your single status – never married, widowed, or divorced – you who believe in Christ are all sons and daughters of God and heirs of His promises (Galatians 3:26-29). You can know God's contentment. Even if your friends or church members don't fully know or understand you, Jesus does. He can provide **INNER** satisfaction.

IV. Single Mothers

Being a mother is a very important role that the Lord chooses to give to many women. A Christian mother is told to love her children (Titus 2:4-5), in part so that she does not bring reproach on the Lord and on the Savior whose name she bears.

V. Don't Settle For Anything Less Than God's Best

Some Christian single women would rather settle for just having a man than to wait for God to send them a committed Christian man.

The God we serve is not just the God who heals our body, restores our soul, provides for our needs, and forgives us. **HE IS OUR EVERYTHING!** And, yes, that means a husband that is yet to come.

VI. The Opportunity to Serve

There is nothing more fulfilling than serving others. In fact, it is the secret to living. You have a great opportunity to serve God when you are single. The best way to serve God is by serving others.

VII. Pursue Christ Wholeheartedly

How many things in your life do you do wholeheartedly? The truth is, there are many things in our lives that we are not fully committed to. However, your pursuit of a thriving relationship with Christ should not be one of them.

VIII. Evolve

It's time to die to self and allow God to evolve us into the women He is calling us to be.

Settle no more for your current state....**EVOLVE!**

- **EVOLVE** in your knowledge of Christ
- **EVOLVE** in your knowledge of You

Just as you have grown physically and are no longer a child, endeavor to grow the spiritual woman within. **EVOLVE...GROW...BECOME...**all that God has planned for you.

THE HEART CHECK ABOUT BEAUTY

1. Do I spend more time daily caring for my personal appearance than I do in Bible study, prayer, and worship?
2. Do I spend excessive money on clothes, hair, and accessories, or is it an amount that is God-honoring.
3. Do I want to lose weight to "feel better about myself," or do I desire to be self-disciplined for the glory of God?
4. Am I on a quest for thinness to impress others, or do I seek to cultivate eating habits that honor God?
5. Do I exercise to try to create or maintain a "good figure," or do I exercise to strengthen my body for God's service?
6. Do I ever dress immodestly or with the intent of drawing attention to myself, or do I always dress in a manner that pleases God?