

Being Happy with Being Single

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By "singleness" we mean "the state of remaining unmarried" or "the period between leaving home and before marriage." Obviously, many people will travel through this important time period. The time of being single can either be joyful and beneficial, or miserable and frustrating. Let's take a look at some of the principles found in the Bible to help us understand God's viewpoint concerning singleness.

Being single doesn't make you a half-person.

If you are an unmarried person approaching your late 20's or 30's or 40's, you might think that something is wrong with you or you're incomplete because you haven't found the right person. That's not true. God has a different timing for everyone. There is no rule that you have to be married by a certain age. I know two people who were content being single until they met each other and were married—both at age 49.

A single person isn't a half-person. Jesus said the two shall become one flesh (Matt 19:5). He didn't say the two halves will become a whole, but two whole individuals will become one flesh. In other words, you can be a complete person whether single or married. Jesus was single and He certainly was a complete, whole person. View your own singleness in the same way.

Consider the seriousness of marriage.

Marriage is the second-most important decision you will make during your lifetime. (Receiving Jesus as your Lord is the most important decision). When you finally do get married, you are joined by covenant to that person as long as your spouse shall live (1 Cor. 7:39, Rom 7:2). That's why it is important to enjoy your single life and to make absolutely sure the person you want to marry is the right one for you—and you are right for your spouse.

If you are walking in God's will, you will know with assurance in your heart if he or she is the right person. In Matt 19:9-12, the disciples were shocked when Jesus spoke of the permanency of marriage. Their response was, "It is better not to marry." Jesus replied very few could understand the seriousness and permanency of marriage (Matt 19:11). If God considers the marriage union as that important, then we need to be very careful and take time when considering marriage (see Prov. 19:13-14, 21:9, 19 25:24).

Singleness is both good and a gift.

Some singles consider singleness as bad and a curse. But God says it is both good (1 Cor. 7:1,8,26) and a gift (1 Cor. 7:7). We must remember that all of God's gifts are good (James 1:17, 1 Tim 4:4). The person who has the gift of celibacy don't have a strong desire to get married. If you have a desire to get married someday, then more than likely you don't have this gift. Until the right person comes along, you will need to learn how to live happily as a single person. Learn to be content until the time of marriage arrives (Phil. 4:11, 1 Cor. 7:26-27).

Be content with being single.

Paul said in Phil 4:11, "I have learned in whatsoever state I am, to be content." He learned how to enjoy life regardless of circumstances. Unfortunately, a great many single people overlook the opportunities of singleness and live in frustration always looking for "Mr. Right" or "Miss Right." It is a temptation, whenever you meet somebody new, to think, "Is he (or she) the one?" Resist the temptation to get married at any cost with any warm body that will say, "I do." Take your time to establish a good relationship built on a spiritual foundation with the person who interests you,

If you aren't content with being single, then it is unlikely you will be content after you get married. One counselor said, "Half of the people who come to me are miserable because they are married—and the other half are miserable because they are single." The lesson here is your problems won't go away just because you get married. You will carry your problems with you into your marriage if you don't learn to how to handle them now.

You can learn to be content in your singleness by looking at the advantages of being single. There are pluses and minuses in both singleness and marriage. When you get married, you exchange the advantages and disadvantages of singleness for the advantages and disadvantages of marriage. Discontentment comes when the single person is constantly thinking about getting married, or the married

person constantly thinks about getting divorced. Like flies on a screen door, the ones on the outside want to get in, and the ones on the inside want to get out. Everybody thinks the grass is greener on the other side of the fence. There is more than enough green grass on either side to fulfill both the single and the married person.

How will you find the right person to marry?

If marriage is the second-most important decision you will make, don't you think that God will take on the responsibility of getting you together? Of course He will. He is able to make sure you meet the right person at the right time. Remember that your future marriage is more important to God than it is to you!

The book *The Sure Cure for Worry* by Kent Crockett (Chosen Books 2013) explains how God can bring people together (without their knowledge of being led by Him) through "divine appointments." The book gives examples concerning how God put thoughts in people's minds to go to a certain place where they met the right person.

Potential Advantages to Singleness

1. Time to work out personal problems and to mature.

Many people think, "If I could get married, that would solve my problems." No, it won't. Marriage can be more stressful because your spouse has to live with your problems—and you have to live with your spouse's. The more problems you learn to properly handle while single, the less you will have to deal with in marriage.

2) Free to move and go where you wish.

It is a great advantage to be able to pack up and move at any time. Not so in marriage. You and your spouse need to be in agreement and your belongings are more than doubled.

3) Opportunities to meet and date others of the opposite sex.

People need to date others while single because after they are married, this is no longer an option (if you want a healthy marriage). The problem many people experience is after the honeymoon wears off and the reality of marriage hits, they start missing the single life. This spells trouble for that marriage. After a person is married, the dating needs to continue, but only with your spouse.

4) Opportunities to accomplish goals.

There are some jobs, adventures, and personal goals that can only be accomplished while single.

5) Not having to provide for a spouse or children.

It does take more money to raise a family and a single person can use his or her situation to become financially free and prepare for the future.

6) Free from the pain of a broken marriage or divorce.

The never-married single person needs to be thankful that he or she has not gone through a painful divorce. Jesus said for some people it is better to never marry (Matt 19:10-11).

7) Undivided attention to the Lord.

The apostle Paul said the unmarried person can give all of his or her attention to pleasing the Lord (1 Cor. 7:32-34).

8) Less trouble in this life.

Marriage brings great blessing, but it can also bring more trouble (1 Cor. 7:28). The single person can actually have less trouble and less stress.

Of course, marriage is a wonderful blessing, but the above 8 points are mentioned to emphasize the advantages of singleness.