

## SINGLEHOOD LESSON 1 Enjoying Your Singlehood

We should rest comfortably knowing that God wants to give us a spouse. It is God who invented marriage and it is God who said “It’s not good for the man to be alone” (**Genesis 2:18**). But God brought the help meet forth when God decided it was time. Adam did not fabricate her himself. It was God’s timing. He was single and busy about God’s business until God decided it was time for him to get married.

### **YOU ARE ALREADY COMPLETE**

Though the Bible promises you a spouse, biblically speaking, you don’t need a spouse (or even a boyfriend/girlfriend) for the reasons you think you do. Marriage will not complete you. Marriage will only compliment you. You are already complete in Christ.

- **For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily. And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power:**

**Colossians 2:9,10**

You are complete in Christ. Not in marriage. Your relationship with Christ is of more concern to God than your getting a spouse. If you are not content single, you will never be content in marriage.

**Contentment:** *Being joyful where you are (faith), on the way to where you are going (hope).*

- **But godliness with contentment is great gain.** **1 Timothy 6:6**
- **And having food and raiment let us be therewith content.**  
**1 Timothy 6:8**
- **Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.**  
**Hebrews 13:5**

Until you are content single, you will never have a happy marriage.

Do not think that you are a lesser person because you are single. The Apostle Paul was single his whole life. Do not think that God cannot use you if you are single. You don’t have to be married to be used of God. Balaam’s donkey wasn’t married.

### **WHAT MARRIAGE/DATING WILL NOT DO FOR YOU**

Many Christians have a Hollywood/worldly view of marriage/dating. For this reason, people often think their happiness will be found in marriage or in not being alone. The joy of the LORD is your strength, not the embrace of a spouse or boyfriend (**Nehemiah 8:10**). As a reality check, here are some things marriage will not do for you. Feel free to interchange “marriage” and “dating.”

- Marriage will not fix you.
- Marriage is not a problem solver. Marriage is a problem magnifier.

- Marriage will not automatically make you happy.
- Marriage will not automatically satisfy you.
- Marriage will not make life easier for you.
- Marriage is not an escape from responsibility.
- Marriage will not heal your past.
- Marriage will not automatically make you a better person.
- Marriage is not a ticket to free sex.
- Marriage is not you getting a servant and getting your way.
- Marriage is not dreamy.
- Had enough?

Marriage is awesome! It's of God! It's beautiful! It's amazing! It's not what the world sells to you. And once you are married, the world reverses course and tells you that you've made the biggest mistake of your life and you should have never gotten married and that you'd be so much happier single! Don't listen to the world.

### **MAXIMIZE YOUR SINGLEHOOD**

You must realize that your singlehood is a gift from God. If you do not view it this way, you will despise where you are and become obsessed with finding a significant other.

- **But I would have you without carefulness. He that is unmarried careth for the things that belong to the LORD, how he may please the LORD: But he that is married careth for the things that are of the world, how he may please his wife.**  
**1 Corinthians 7:32,33**

Paul tells us that marriage is full of cares. When you are single your main care should be pleasing Jesus Christ. Your main care should not be a spouse. We are to seek Jesus, not a spouse.

When you are married you must focus on your spouse. What if you're still immature, insecure, needy, and selfish when you get married? How will you care for your spouse in that condition? These are things that are designed to get worked out when you are yet single.

Singlehood is when you are to learn how to please God. Singlehood is when you learn to be a giver and a servant. If you get married and you've never learned how to please God, you will not know how to please your spouse.

### **IMPORTANT QUESTIONS TO ASK YOURSELF**

- What do I have to offer a woman/man?
- Have I developed a strong, stable walk with God?
- Am I content being single?
- Am I living a life pleasing unto God?
- Am I selfish?
- Am I needy?
- Am I immature?
- Am I only interested in sex?

- Am I ready to lay down my life, dreams, ambitions, and desires that I might please a spouse?
- Am I established in the natural realm (job, home, finances)?
- Am I capable spiritually and financially of supporting a family?

Singlehood is a time to perfect yourself as a man or woman of God. You must be patient and longsuffering (this is a fruit of the Spirit) and get busy about the Master's business. You sin when you hasten with your feet (**Proverbs 19:2**). Enjoy being single. This is the only time you will ever be single!!

If you are still a newly planted Christian, you don't need to be concerned with finding a spouse.

If you are an immature Christian, you don't need to be concerned with finding a spouse.

- **If the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch.**

**Matthew 15:14b**

## SINGLEHOOD LESSON 2 From Interested to Courtship

### WHO CAN I BE INTERESTED IN?

Because man is a visually-wired creation with a heart of daydreams, he is open to many distractions and evil lures. Women, on the other hand, often “fall” for the first man who shows them any semblance of kindness. Men often follow after the pretty Philistine, just as Samson did to his own destruction.

The Bible is very strict as to whom you as a Christian can even be interested in as a potential spouse. We do not endorse casual dating in this ministry. There is far too much at risk for you to “cat around” or “play the field.” With the Bible’s help, you can fine tune and even greatly raise your standards and eliminate many potential distractions.

Let us see where you should begin looking for a potential spouse and what qualities they should have.

### IN THE BEGINNING...

God invented marriage. We should look at the model He set forth in the beginning. Here is the key to how and when a Christian will find a spouse in the will of God.

- **And the LORD God planted a garden eastward in Eden; and there he put the man whom he had formed. And the LORD took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it. And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him. And the rib, which the LORD GOD had taken from the man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man. And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man. Genesis 2:8,15,18,22,23**

1. Adam was formed by God. You must allow God to form you.
2. Adam was busy working in the Garden. You must be busy working in the Garden (the Kingdom, the local church). You’ll find your spouse in God’s Garden, not the beer garden.
3. Adam had a job in the Garden. You should have a job in the Garden.
4. God took note of man, that he needed help in keeping the Garden. Are you busy for God and need help working in God’s kingdom?
5. God made a woman for Adam. As a woman, you must allow God to make you for your husband.
6. God presents the woman to the Adam. Adam was still busy working for God, not working to find a woman.
7. Adam gladly received and accepted the woman. Ladies: you can’t make a man want you. He either does or he doesn’t.
8. They were wed in the Garden. You get married in the Garden.

9. They continued to work in the Garden. You stay and continue to work in the Garden.

If he/she is not laboring for God in His Garden (i.e., church), they are off limits to you. This may be a staunch approach, but you won't go wrong if you keep it in the Garden.

### OTHER BIBLE EXAMPLES

- Rebecca, Isaac's wife: Abraham said to his servant, "**thou shalt not take a wife unto my son of the daughters of the Canaanites, among whom I dwell: but thou shalt go to my country, and to my kindred, and take a wife unto my son Isaac.**" The servant's prayer for direction to select the damsel, "that thou hast appointed for thy servant Isaac" included the criteria of a servant's heart and hard work. (Note: Isaac was also called a servant.) The day Isaac laid eyes on Rebekah, he had come from the well Lahairoi (*the Living One Seeing Me*) where he had been praying.  
**Genesis 24:1-67**
- Rachel, Jacob's wife: Jacob's mother complained of the worldly girls, "**I am weary of my life because of the daughters of Heth,**" don't let Jacob marry a heathen girl, it will break my heart. So Isaac blessed Jacob first and then commanded him saying, "**Thou shalt not take a wife of the daughters of Canaan.**" Go to the house of Bethuel (Man of God) and get a wife there. When Jacob first sees Rachel, she is tending her father's sheep. Jacob rolls the stone off the well and waters the sheep for her. Then he kissed her and wept.  
**Genesis 27:46-29:20**
- Zipporah, Moses' wife: Zipporah was a preacher's daughter. Moses married into the ministry. When Moses met Zipporah he was on the run, but she was serving her father by watering his sheep. Moses helped her and her sisters by defending them from rude shepherds and drawing the water out for them.  
**Exodus 2:15-22**

What we can learn from these marriages in the Bible:

1. First of all, you must let God make you.
2. God selects your spouse.
3. Allow leadership to help you in your courtship. Abraham and Isaac had input in whom their sons married. Submit your intentions to the Word and to godly leadership.
4. You must be working in the Kingdom of God. You must be a servant.
5. You want to qualify for and attract a fellow laboring servant. Do not desire a lazy individual. Marriage is a garden and it takes **HARD WORK!!!!**
6. You don't marry the Canaanite heathen. Don't even look at them. Samson always had an eye for the Philistine women. He loved many of them. He died blind, powerless, and a prisoner.

## SINGLEHOOD LESSON 3 Raising Your Standard and Courtship Defined

### COURTSHIP

This topic must be discussed strictly in the confines of the Bible and outside of the constraints of natural cultures. Every culture has different taboos, social norms, and expectations concerning courtship and marriage. What is expected by one culture is a mere afterthought for another. One culture may make demands at which another culture might scoff.

### DATING vs. COURTSHIP

I personally make a big distinction between dating and courtship. Dating seems to me to be a purely western cultural creation. Though not entirely bad, dating can callous your heart and severely detract from your relationship with Jesus Christ. The difference between dating and courtship is motive and heart condition.

**\*\*You date for fun. You court for commitment.\*\***

In the American culture, we generally fear commitment, so we date. Insecure people hop from one dating relationship to another. They break up with one boyfriend and get with another. Dating is for immature people. Courtship is for those who have a mature heart seeking commitment. **If you're not mature enough to get married, you don't need to fool with dating.**

You should only pursue someone if, a) you're the man, and b) you're prepared for the potential relationship to end in marriage. Anything else will be a general waste of time. Dating for "fun" always ends up hurting someone's heart.

- For the woman to pursue is unbiblical. It is the man's job to pursue the woman.
- Courtship includes dating, but dating is not courtship.

Pre-arranged marriages are not biblical. Father and Mother should have a say in who you court, if they are God-fearing Christians. Be willing to submit the relationship and its merit to all godly authority in your life. If your parents are not believers, their counsel concerning God's best for you will not be accurate.

### SCRIPTURES FOR RAISING YOUR STANDARD

- **Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? or ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the LORD,**

**and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the LORD Almighty.  
2 Corinthians 6:14-18**

- **Discretion shall preserve thee, understanding shall keep thee: To deliver thee from the strange woman, even from the stranger which flattereth with her words; Which forsaketh the guide of her youth, and forgetteth the covenant of her God. For her house inclineth unto death, and her paths unto the dead. None that go unto her return again, neither take they hold of the paths of life.  
Proverbs 2:11,16-19**
- **And, behold, there met him a woman with the attire of an harlot, and subtil [crafty, sly] of heart. She is loud and stubborn; her feet abide not in her house:  
Proverbs 7:10,11**
- **A gracious [*humble*] woman retaineth honour [*stays anointed*].  
Proverbs 11:16a**
- **Like a gold ring in a pig's snout so is a beautiful woman who shows no discretion.  
Proverbs 11:22 (NIV)**  
*\*discretion: the quality of behaving or speaking in such a way as to avoid causing offense or revealing private information.*
- **It is better to dwell in a corner of the housetop, than with a brawling woman in a wide house.  
Proverbs 21:9, 25:24**
- **It is better to dwell in the wilderness, than with a contentious and an angry woman.  
Proverbs 21:19**
- **Proverbs 31:10-31-** This is the Proverbs 31 woman. She is a woman of virtue.
- **2 Thessalonians 3:10-** Men should have a job. If not...then go hungry.
- **1 Timothy 5:2-** Ladies, men should be treating you with honor and respect and all purity.
- **1 Timothy 3:1-13-** These are the qualifications for bishops and deacons. This is what a man of God should look and act like. Ladies, study them and know them! This is what your man should look like.
- **Titus 2:3-5-** This is a list of characteristics for godly women.

Don't race to buy a Yugo or a bicycle when God wants to give you a Mercedes.

## SINGLEHOOD LESSON 4 Pastor Chris' Thoughts on Relationships

- You can have your heart's desire (good, bad, or out of God's time).
- You must seek Jesus before any other relationship and be willing daily to terminate any friendship that detracts and distracts from God.
- Anything outside of contentment is lust.
- You cannot afford to daydream.
- The right thing at the wrong time is still the wrong thing.
- Seek to please Jesus. If this frustrates or displeases or angers the friend – their true heart has been exposed.
- Marathon-reveal-all-first-date-talks violate scripture and are not a sign of divine connection. These are what I call "Soul Dumps" (**Proverbs 4:23, 17:28, 29:11**).
- If you choose to date, then remember that dating is a time to assay the character and heart of the individual. Therefore, dating must be done cautiously – guarding emotions and not allowing soul ties to develop. This is not a time to become infatuated.
- Don't cut off all other friendships.
- If your relationship causes you to neglect previous commitments and responsibilities, something is unbalanced and unhealthy.
- As the man, you must set the standard and the lead. If she doesn't want to follow, can't follow, wants to be bossy, or tries to slowly pull down your high standard – her heart has been revealed.
- As the woman, you must yield to the man, not as though you are married, but as a sweet, holy woman of God. If you have to lead while dating, he is either incapable of leading or you have too strong a personality for him. Therefore, you should not even consider dating someone who can't lead you according to God and His standards. If you are stronger than him now, this will not change just because you say 'I do.'
- A first date doesn't necessarily need to be immediately followed by a second date. Let things marinate – use the first date as a data gathering/research expedition (after all, if it is God, it can and will wait).
- There is no room for jealousy in friendships. Jealousy is a sign of immaturity, insecurity, and faithlessness in your completeness in Christ (much less when you're jealous in a simple dating relationship). If it is God, you have nothing to fear.
- If you're ready to get married after two or three months of dating, you've done too much daydreaming, too much talking, and too little observing.
- If you want to get married so you can hurry up and have sex, you've missed the point completely. Sex, as a driving force for marriage, keeps the union in the natural and overlooks the supernatural nature of the union. Sex is not a spirit-minded motivation. Sex as a motive is purely carnal, sinful, and animalistic.



- Never make “deals” with your friend/spouse. Love serves because it loves, not because it desires something in exchange. Love does not barter.
- **Better is the poor that walketh in his integrity, than he that is perverse in his lips, and is a fool. Also, that the soul be without knowledge, it is not good; and he that hasteth with his feet sinneth.** Proverbs 19:1,2
- **The foolishness of man perverteth his way: and his heart fretteth against the LORD.** Proverbs 19:3
- **Desire without knowledge is not good.** Proverbs 19:2a(ESV)
- **Therefore thus saith the LORD GOD, Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner stone, a sure foundation: he that believeth shall not make haste.** Isaiah 28:16

The following sections are taken from Joshua Harris’ book, *I Kissed Dating Goodbye*. Multnomah Publishers, Inc.

### **7 HABITS OF HIGHLY DEFECTIVE DATING**

- 1) Dating leads to intimacy, but not necessarily commitment.
- 2) Dating tends to skip the ‘friendship’ part of a relationship.
- 3) Dating often mistakes a physical relationship for love.
- 4) Dating often isolates a couple from other vital relationships.
- 5) Dating, in many cases, distracts young adults from their primary responsibility of preparing for the future.
- 6) Dating can cause discontentment with God’s gift of singleness.
- 7) Dating creates an artificial environment for evaluating another person’s character.

### **3 STEPS TO MAINTAINING HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS**

- 1) Understand the difference between friendship and intimacy (friendship is two people walking side-by-side toward a common goal.)
- 2) Be inclusive, not exclusive. Don’t isolate yourself.
- 3) Seek opportunities to serve, not to be entertained (in service we find true friendship).