

MADE FOR RELATIONSHIP: SINGLENES



1 Corinthians 7

KEY TRUTHS

- Singleness is a good gift from God.
- Romantic love is not the root to fulfilment.
- Jesus was single, but that doesn't automatically make singleness easier.
- Singleness is a gift to the Church.
- Singleness can be difficult, but so can marriage. 'Single' doesn't have to mean 'lonely'. 'Married' doesn't necessarily mean 'complete'.

CULTURAL FALSEHOODS

- Marriage is a sign of success.
- Married people should only spend time with other couples.
- Once you're married, you have it all together and everything is fine.
- Marriage makes you less lonely, because you have an automatic person, whereas a single person has to be much more intentional.

START THE CONVERSATION

- How's your week been?
- Are you single?
- If yes, great! What's the BEST thing about being single?
- If no, when was the last time you were single? What was the BEST thing about that time?
- Whether you're single or not, what things divide your attention in life? What things take your focus, whether they're good things or bad?
- What's the most meaningful, deep, non-romantic relationship you have now or have had in the past?

GOING DEEPER

Pray that God would challenge our heads and keep our hearts open to the truth of His word. Ask the Holy Spirit to give us a fresh revelation of his plan for human relationship, that God would reorder our hearts in a Jesus-like way.

Read 1 Corinthians 7:32-40 together.

First of all, for you personally, what in this passage is...

- the most surprising thing?
- the most challenging thing?

Share these with your group.

Singleness is a gift. That's what we hear, but looking at this passage (and the rest of 1 Corinthians 7 if that's helpful), is singleness a gift? Why?

One key benefit of singleness, both for the individual and for the Church and therefore the world, is having undivided interests – being interested first and most in Jesus (v34).

- What does this truth tell us about how we can live better in singleness?
- How should this change the way we view marriage?
- What parts of God's character is it easier to reflect as a single person, as opposed to someone who's married?

If singleness is this great gift, and if we take what Paul says in this passage seriously, then if we are to live by the truth of the Bible, how do we need to reshape the way we approach singleness and marriage?

How can we each invest better in our single or married friends?

- What practical things can each of us do to deepen our friendships with others?
- How can we make it easier and more normal for married people to have deep friendships with single people and for single people to have deep friendship with married people?

Meaningful relationship is not derived from sex. What does meaningful, non-romantic relationship look like in your life, even between those of the opposite sex?

FURTHER READING

[Single Minded | Kate Wharton](#)

[7 Myths about Singleness | Sam Allberry](#)

VIDEOS, PODCASTS & BLOGS

[Singleness | Andrew Bunt \(Video\)](#)