

WELCOME HOME
Part Two: Single Life & Dating
Pastor Rick Henderson **April 13-14, 2024**

MATTHEW 17:29 *And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or fields for my sake will receive a hundred times as much and will inherit eternal life.*

We are all **REFLECTING**, **RESISTING**, or **REDEEMING** our cultural influences.

Singleness isn't a **PROBLEM** to solve, but loneliness is.

REALITY CHECK: There's not a single *singles* demographic.

3 CATEGORIES

- Single people who want to get married.
- Single people who don't want to get married.
- Single people who are happily unmarried but are open to marriage.

GENESIS 16:3 *She gave this name to the LORD who spoke to her: "You are the God who sees me," for she said, "I have now seen the One who sees me."*

NEEDED PERSPECTIVES:

- Christological
- Devotional
- Practical

The most **JOY**-filled and **COMPLETE** person in human history was single and never had sex.

QUESTION: Do you think it's possible that Jesus wants to use your singleness to give you a greater knowledge of and deeper experience of him?

HEBREWS 4:15-16 *For we do not have a high priest who is unable to **empathize** with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been **tempted in every way**, just as we are—**yet he did not sin**.*

1 CORINTHIANS 7:25-35 *Now about virgins: I have no command from the Lord, but I give a judgment as one who by the Lord's mercy is trustworthy. Because of the present crisis, I think that it is good for a man to remain as he is. Are you pledged to a woman? Do not seek to be released. Are you free from such a commitment? Do not look for a wife. 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. 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; 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; those who use the things of the world, as if not engrossed in them. For this world in its present form is passing away. 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. But a*

married man is concerned about the affairs of this world—how he can please his wife—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. 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 7:35 *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**.*

Jesus is **MORE** committed to your good than **YOU** are.

1 CORINTHIANS 7:25-28 *Now about virgins: I have no command from the Lord, but I give a judgment as one who by the Lord’s mercy is trustworthy. **Because of the present crisis**,*

I think that it is good for a man to remain as he is. Are you pledged to a woman? Do not seek to be released. Are you free from such a commitment? Do not look for a wife. 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.

Changing your relationship status doesn’t **SOLVE** problems. It **EXCHANGES** them.

If you live for yourself while **SINGLE**, you’ll live for yourself **WHEN** married.

PRACTICAL ADVICE FOR SINGLE PEOPLE

- It’s OK to meet people at church.
- It’s OK to date casually, not carelessly.
- Define your boundaries before you start dating.
- Don’t give your heart to someone who hasn’t given their heart to Jesus.
- Monitor and evaluate the sexual messaging you consume.
- Eliminate pornography from your life.
- Develop friendships with married people.
- If you want to maximize your freedom, minimize your debt.

PRACTICAL ADVICE FOR MARRIED PEOPLE

- Don’t pity single people. Honor them.
- Don’t play matchmaker unless they ask you to.
- Eliminate “when are you going to/why aren’t you...” questions from your conversations.
- Be a great friend and invite single people into your home.

BOTTOM LINE: Not everyone is supposed to be married. No one is supposed to be **ALONE**.