

#singlelife 3

Sunday, June 2, 2019

Review

Singleness is not a relationship status, but a state of mind and heart.

To be single is to be single-hearted, a devotion to the Lord that is exclusive.

Just like marriage requires a conscious choice, biblical singleness must be chosen.

If you live a single life only by default, you become easily influenced by the expectations of the world's sex, romance and dating culture.

People who are literally single should be married to the heart of God and people who are literally married should be single-hearted.

Undivided Devotion to the Lord

I Corinthians 7:25-35

vs. 25-31

The Bible does not invite you to place your real or imagined human love interest at the center of your universe.

If you make anyone other than God the source of your happiness, you are setting ourselves up for disappointment.

The physical pleasure, emotional satisfaction and ego boost the world associates with human love is not a foundation upon which to build a fulfilled life.

vs. 32-35

While singles are freer to focus on their individual devotions to the Lord, married people are no less accountable to God in their devotion.

If you are married, you may be less available for ministry than a person who is single, but God still wants undivided devotion from your heart.

Devotion to the Lord has more to do with what we are becoming than it does with what we do.

The process of becoming is about our growth and development.

To develop or grow is to "evolve, mature, expand, enlarge, spread, advance, progress, prosper, succeed, thrive, get on well, flourish, blossom, bloom, burgeon, make headway, be successful" (Google Dictionary).

While the world has several personal growth and development programs that produce positive results, for the Christian, Christ is the focus of growth (**Galatians 4:19**).

The growth that God requires of us relies on the supernatural, which is why Christ must be at its center (**Ephesians 3:14-19**).

While God's power is ever ready to resource us with the strength to do His will, the "you factor" is the elephant in the room (**Ephesians 4:17-24**).

A Prize Worth Winning

We can have a fulfilled married and single life if we literally keep our eyes on the prize (**Philippians 3:7-8;12-14; I Corinthians 9:24-27**).

The analogies Paul uses to describe the Christian life are boxing and running, both of which are individual and not team sports.

Use your spouse as a sparring partner.

Your real opponent is yourself, the old nature.