

#singlelife

Sunday, May 19, 2019

Review

The essential ingredients necessary to thrive in life naturally and spiritually are given to us by our natural and spiritual parents.

Human beings are different from all other mammals in many ways, not the least of which is how they mature.

In order for baby humans to become mature adult humans, they require sustained quality care from their biological parents for several years.

Foster care, adoption, step-child raising and primary caregiving are vital interventions in the lives of people who have lost or have unhealthy or insufficient ties to their biological parents.

Pastoral care and Christian discipleship are extensions of the parenting role and often provide the only healthy parental intervention some people ever receive (**Luke 18:29-30**).

Singleness and the Heart of God

The end goal of parenting is to produce a mature single adult who is married to the heart of God (*Sex and the Single Soul* [Jack Hayford], p.36)

Loose Ends (Matthew 19: 3-11)

Eunuchs are people who make themselves dead to sexual impulse; they do not respond to invitations to act upon sexual desire so that they can be responsive to the king.

The world is constantly asking us to arouse our sexual appetites in all the wrong contexts.

The single life needs to be redefined by the eunuch experience in Scripture: a life of service to the king in which we subject lower order desires to higher order desires.

“Singleness is single-heartedness: more than anything, embracing your singleness means having the capacity to give yourself to God’s purpose in your life unhindered and restricted by other obligations, yet without being dominated by self-centeredness” (*Sex and the Single Soul* [Jack Hayford], p.30).

The single life is not about a relationship status, but about single-mindedness, a quality that applies to the married and unmarried alike.

Singles are simply freer to focus on their individual devotions to the Lord (**I Corinthians 7:32-35**)

Pleasing 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 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**).

God’s Power, Our Choices

The growth that God requires of us relies on the supernatural, which is why Christ must be at its center (**Colossians 1: 9-10**).

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 (**Colossians 3: 1-17**).