

FINANCIAL UPDATE



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SUMMER SERIES
2011

HOPE
BOX

1 Corinthians 7:1-2

1 Now for the matters you wrote about: “It is good for a man not to have sexual relations with a woman.” 2 But since sexual immorality is occurring, each man should have sexual relations with his own wife, and each woman with her own husband.

1 Corinthians 7:32-35

32 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. 33 But a married man is concerned about the affairs of this world — how he can please his wife — 34 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. 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.

Given the pervasive view in the world that when you're single, "it's all about about you", I've seen the "singleness equals selfishness" mindset creep into the church. Christian singleness involves serving, giving up your preferences, etc, just in different ways than marriage does. Praying and seeking God's purpose for my singleness and how he can use my time, talents, relationships, etc, has been an important part of me seeing God's goodness in the midst this season.

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1 Corinthians 7:7-9

7 I wish that all of you were as I am. But each of you has your own gift from God; one has this gift, another has that.

8 Now to the unmarried and the widows I say: It is good for them to stay unmarried, as I do. 9 But if they cannot control themselves, they should marry, for it is better to marry than to burn with passion.

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The face you make when your family asks if you're dating anyone "special"



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1 Corinthians 7:25-28

25 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. 26 Because of the present crisis, I think that it is good for a man to remain as he is. 27 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. 28 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.

1 Corinthians 7:29-31

29 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; 30 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; 31 those who use the things of the world, as if not engrossed in them. For this world in its present form is passing away.

1 Corinthians 9:4-7

4 Don't we have the right to food and drink? 5 Don't we have the right to take a believing wife along with us, as do the other apostles and the Lord's brothers and Cephas? 6 Or is it only I and Barnabas who lack the right to not work for a living?

7 Who serves as a soldier at his own expense? Who plants a vineyard and does not eat its grapes? Who tends a flock and does not drink the milk?

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1 Corinthians 9:12

But we did not use this right. On the contrary, we put up with anything rather than hinder the gospel of Christ.

1 Corinthians 9:19

Though I am free and belong to no one, I have made myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible.

1 Corinthians 7:36-38

36 If anyone is worried that he might not be acting honorably toward the virgin he is engaged to, and if his passions are too strong and he feels he ought to marry, he should do as he wants. He is not sinning. They should get married. 37 But the man who has settled the matter in his own mind, who is under no compulsion but has control over his own will, and who has made up his mind not to marry the virgin – this man also does the right thing. 38 So then, he who marries the virgin does right, but he who does not marry her does better.

Should I get married?

You may be gifted with singleness, you find it easy to do life without a partner, however, the Lord may be calling you to be married in order to sharpen and shape you more like Christ. And vice versa. So right now, as I'm single the Lord is using this time to shape me more like Christ, it isn't time wasted in his eyes. There is purpose and how can I be seeking the Lord, trusting he is for me and that he is using this time for his glory.

*How do I live with
unmet desires?*

What I feared most, though, about my decision to remain celibate was that I had thereby doomed myself to lifelong loneliness.

Wesley Hill - *Washed and Waiting*
Assistant Professor of Biblical Studies
Trinity School for Ministry



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... The New Testament views the church--rather than marriage--as the primary place where human love is best expressed and experienced.

Wesley Hill - *Washed and Waiting*
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I want to be married, but I'm not.

Why?

I want to be married, but I'm not.

Why?

I don't know

I want to be married, but I'm not.

Why?

I don't know,
but it **CAN'T** be because God
doesn't love you!

One thing I've been reflecting on a lot is the waiting in singleness should ultimately be pointing us toward and reminding us of the ultimate thing we are waiting for-- the return of Christ! As I "wait" for a husband, it's a dim reflection of the longing I have to be with Christ, the true Bridegroom that I'm waiting for-- so even if/when marriage happens, it won't ultimately satisfy the longing I have -- Christ is the only thing that fills that longing and will ultimately bring complete satisfaction when he returns.

COMMUNITY IMPLICATIONS

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- Change the Singleness Soundtrack

I've gone through times where singleness was more of a struggle. But ultimately I would want people to know that no matter what, you're loved by God and ok regardless of your marital status. You're not less than because you're single and you haven't arrived because you're married. I'd want to encourage people to fight the lie that marriage is the goal. Living a life for Jesus is the goal.

COMMUNITY IMPLICATIONS

- Change the Singleness Soundtrack
- Comparison Kills



I'm learning that comparison is at the root of these struggles – I'm looking at what other people have and believing the lie that it's better than what I have.

Single people need to be in community with married people to prevent the "grass is greener" view of marriage, and vice-versa.

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- “Rejoice with those that rejoice, mourn with those that mourn”

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- Prioritize Presence Over Advice



Singleness is not an illness to be cured. But it is a life challenge that is deeply emotional, painful in seasons of loneliness and often not given a voice to be discussed in a constructive and helpful way to the one experiencing it.

COMMUNITY IMPLICATIONS

- Change the Singleness Soundtrack
- Comparison Kills
- “Rejoice with those that rejoice, mourn with those that mourn”
- Don’t Disregard People Due to their Marital Status
- Prioritize Presence Over Advice
- Be Intentional with Friendships



Maintaining strong married/single friendships is a responsibility that falls equally on both parties. I often hear people talk about how their married friends "never make time for them anymore", which is usually a super legit concern and source of pain. But, I've also seen assumptions on the part of the single person that the couple is probably too busy, so they don't invite them to spend time with them. At any rate, good communication is really helpful in these scenarios.

GOSPEL APPLICATION

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“Have I been thinking about
singleness/marriage the wrong way?”

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“Have I been thinking about singleness/marriage the wrong way?”

“How have I been using my singleness? My marriage?”

GOSPEL APPLICATION

“Have I been thinking about singleness/marriage the wrong way?”

“How have I been using my singleness? My marriage?”

“Is Jesus enough for me?”