



RCCG OCEANIA

Identity & Purpose

Singleness: God's Original Design

At a Glance

BIG IDEA

Explore the biblical perspective on singleness as the foundation of human relationships. Understand why singleness is emphasized over marriage and how it aligns with God's original design. Discover how being single is crucial for personal development and relational success.

PRIMARY PASSAGES

1 Corinthians 7

Genesis 1:26

Genesis 2:15

Matthew 19

Key Takeaways

- Singleness is foundational to all relationships.
- Marriage exposes the quality of one's singleness.
- Divorce is a significant relational tragedy.
- God's original creation emphasizes singleness.
- Understanding one's identity is crucial before marriage.

Introduction

Singleness is often viewed as a temporary state before marriage, but the Bible presents it as a foundational aspect of human existence. By examining the Scriptures, we can see how singleness is integral to God's original design for humanity and how it plays a crucial role in personal and relational development.

Scripture Reading

- **1 Corinthians 7** — This passage discusses the challenges of marriage and the benefits of remaining single.
- **Genesis 1:26** — Highlights God's creation of humans in His image, emphasizing individuality.
- **Genesis 2:15** — Describes God's placement of man in Eden, underscoring the importance of singleness.
- **Matthew 19** — Jesus speaks on the creation of male and female, reinforcing the value of singleness.

Key Points

1. **Singleness as a Foundation** — Singleness is the basis of all relationships, as God began the human family with a single individual. This ...

Key Points (cont.)

1. Singleness as a Foundation (cont.) — underscores the importance of developing one's identity before entering into marriage. In Genesis, we see that God created man first, emphasizing the significance of individual purpose and identity. Singleness allows for personal growth and understanding of one's role in God's creation.
 - Reflect on your personal identity and purpose in God's creation.
 - Consider how singleness can be a time for personal growth and development.
 - Seek to understand your unique role and calling before pursuing marriage.

Scripture: Genesis 1:26 Genesis 2:15

Key Points (cont.)

2. Marriage and Singleness — Marriage does not improve one's singleness; rather, it reveals it. A successful marriage relies on the quality of each individual's singleness. Paul, in 1 Corinthians 7, highlights the benefits of singleness, suggesting that it allows for undivided devotion to God. The quality of one's singleness directly impacts the health and success of a marriage.
 - Evaluate the quality of your singleness and how it affects your relationships.
 - Focus on strengthening your relationship with God during your single years.
 - Prepare for future relationships by developing a strong personal foundation.

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 7

Key Points (cont.)

3. The Tragedy of Divorce — Divorce is seen as a profound tragedy because it represents a relational failure while both individuals are still alive. This highlights the importance of a strong foundation in singleness. Without a solid understanding of one's identity and purpose, relationships can falter, leading to painful separations.

- Understand the importance of a strong personal foundation before entering marriage.
- Reflect on how a lack of personal development can impact relationships.
- Commit to personal growth to prevent relational failures.

Key Points (cont.)

4. **Jesus' Example** — Jesus, who remained single, serves as a model for the value and purpose of singleness in fulfilling God's design. His life demonstrates that singleness can be a complete and fulfilling state, allowing for full devotion to God's mission. Jesus' example shows that singleness is not a deficiency but a unique opportunity to serve God wholeheartedly.
 - Look to Jesus as a model for living a fulfilling single life.
 - Embrace singleness as a time to focus on God's mission.
 - Consider how singleness can be a unique opportunity for service and devotion.

Scripture: Matthew 19

Group Discussion

Tip: Use these questions to guide the group from seeing → understanding → applying.

Observation

- What does Genesis 1:26 reveal about God's creation of individuals?
- How does 1 Corinthians 7 describe the benefits of singleness?
- What does Matthew 19 teach about the value of singleness?

Interpretation

- Why is singleness emphasized as foundational in the Bible?
- How does marriage reveal the quality of one's singleness?
- What can we learn from Jesus' example of singleness?

Application

- How can you embrace singleness as a time for personal growth?
- In what ways can you strengthen your relationship with God during your single years?
- How can Jesus' example of singleness inspire your own life choices?

Prayer Focus

- Pray for a deeper understanding of God's purpose for singleness.
- Ask for guidance in developing a strong personal identity in Christ.
- Seek wisdom to embrace singleness as a time for personal growth and devotion to God.

Next Step

Reflect on your personal identity and purpose in God's creation, embracing singleness as a time for growth and preparation for future relationships.

Conclusion

Singleness is not merely a waiting period before marriage but a vital aspect of God's design for human relationships. By understanding and embracing singleness, individuals can develop a strong foundation for all future relationships, including marriage. Jesus' life exemplifies the fulfillment and purpose that can be found in singleness, encouraging us to view it as a valuable and enriching stage of life.

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For personal and small-group study.