

The Gift of Singleness Uncomplicating Relationships February 21, 2021

Romans 1:21-25 (NLT) They knew God, but they wouldn't worship Him as God or even give Him thanks. And they began to think up foolish ideas of what God was like. As a result, their minds became dark and confused. Claiming to be wise, they instead became utter fools...As a result, they did vile and degrading things with each other's bodies. They traded the truth about God for a lie.

Single in 2021: It's Complicated

- **"Single" status**
- **Dating today**
- **Social space**
- **Hurt and hesitant**

The Gift of Singleness

1 Corinthians 7:7 (NLT) But I wish everyone were single, just as I am. Yet each person has a special gift from God, of one kind or another.

1 Corinthians 7:32-34 (MSG) I want you to live as free of complications as possible. When you're unmarried, you're free to concentrate on simply pleasing the Master. Marriage involves you in all the nuts and bolts of domestic life and in wanting to please your spouse, leading to so many more demands on your attention. The time and energy that married people spend on caring for and nurturing each other, the unmarried can spend in becoming whole and holy instruments of God.

- **"Free of complications": Single and Simple**

Ecclesiastes 3:1 (NIV) There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens:

- **"Pleasing the Master": Single and Seeking**

Matthew 6:33 (NIV) But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

Psalms 23:1 (NIV) The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing.

- **"Time and energy": Single and Serving**

Psalms 92:12-15 (NIV) The righteous will flourish like a palm tree, they will grow like a cedar of Lebanon; ¹³planted in the house of the Lord, they will flourish in the courts of our God. ¹⁴They will still bear fruit in old age, they will stay fresh and green, ¹⁵proclaiming, "The Lord is upright; He is my Rock, and there is no wickedness in Him."

- **"Whole and holy": Single and Secure**

Matthew 7:24-25 (NLT) Anyone who listens to My teaching and follows it is wise, like a person who builds a house on solid rock. ²⁵Though the rain comes in torrents and the floodwaters rise and the winds beat against that house, it won't collapse because it is built on bedrock.

"If you try to build intimacy with another person before you have gotten whole on your own, all your relationships become an attempt to complete yourself." --Dr. Les Parrott