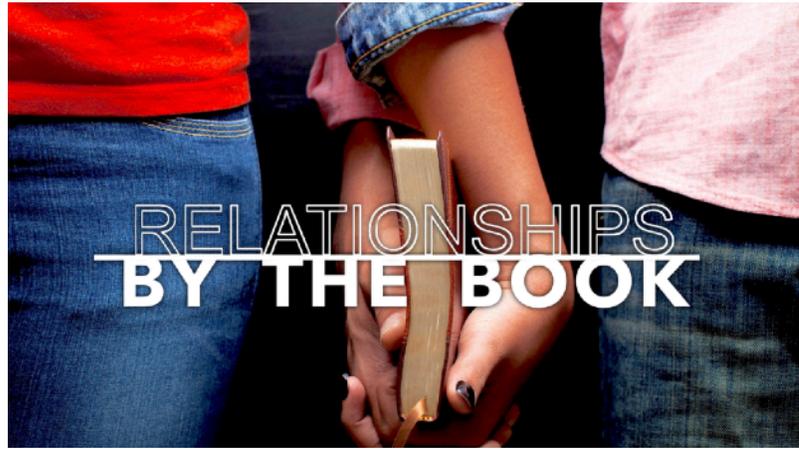


## SINGLE & SATISFIED

1 Corinthians 7:32-35



We're going to start out with a pop quiz this morning

**What is the fastest growing adult population group in the world?**

- a) Muslims
- b) Christians
- c) Hispanics
- d) Chinese
- e) Singles

**Single people are the fastest-growing demographic in Canada.**

### CBC NEWS

*Married people are in the minority in Canada for the first time, according to census information released in 2006 by Statistics Canada.*

*According to a census conducted by Statistics Canada in 2001 - 49.9 per cent were unmarried. In 2006, the data showed 51.5% - marking the first time married people have been outnumbered in the census, since 1871.*

*LINK: <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/married-people-outnumbered-for-first-time-census-1.647751>*

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### Married people outnumbered for first time: census

CBC News Posted Sep 12, 2007 8:10 AM ET | Last Updated Sep 12, 2007 1:10 PM ET

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New York University sociologist **Eric Klinenberg** says in his book - *Going Solo: the Extraordinary Rise and Surprising Appeal of Living Alone* - "I think the incredible rise of living alone is the biggest social change that we have failed to name and identify."

There are **4 unavoidable realities** we must acknowledge about relationships in our world today:

- 1) **People are Single by Divorce.**
- 2) **People are Single by Death of a Spouse.**
- 3) **People are Single by Demographics.**
- 4) **People are Single by Deliberate Choice.**
- 5) **People are single by God's Design.**

Those 5 realities for single relationships are as true right here in our church as it is anywhere else in the world.

**GT** is home to an incredible number of **married couples...**

At the same time we are home to a large number of **divorced people...**

We have a large number of people who have **outlived their spouses...**

We also have many **single by choice** people...

Then, finally, we have a growing number of single men and women who **want to be married**, but are not.

**Society has historically been unkind to single people.**

*"In 1957, a group of psychologists from the University of Michigan surveyed Americans about their attitudes toward marriage and singleness and they found that 80% of the respondents thought that adults who wanted to be unmarried were either 'sick,' 'neurotic,' or 'immoral.'"*

**Eric Klinenberg** says, *"I'm concerned that we fail to understand why so many people have made this decision to be single and collectively have failed to remove the stigma of living alone - and we can be so judgmental."*

The church is not an institution for the family, but a gospel community that operates as a family. And in God's family, there are all kinds of people searching for healthy relationships with God and one another.

In **1 Corinthians 7** Paul says - ***you can be single and satisfied.***

**1 Corinthians 7:32-35 / Complete Jewish Bible (CJB)**

*32 What I want is for you to be free of concern. An unmarried man concerns himself with the Lord's affairs, 33 with how to please the Lord; but the married man concerns himself with the world's affairs, with how to please his wife; 34 and he finds himself split. Likewise the woman who is no longer married or the girl who has never been married concerns herself with the Lord's affairs, with how to be holy both physically and spiritually; but the married woman concerns herself with the world's affairs, with how to please her husband. 35 I am telling you this for your own benefit, not to put restrictions on you — I am simply concerned that you live in a proper manner and serve the Lord with undivided devotion.*

Paul does not treat ***marriage as godly*** and ***singleness as second-best***.

In fact, several of the main characters in the Bible were single: Anna, Jeremiah, Ruth, Joseph, John the Baptist, Jesus, Paul.

We don't know for sure if Paul was ever married... **What is he saying?**

In fact, he takes it even a step further and says that **Singleness is a gift.**

Jesus honours being single by saying:

*"it is good for those to whom [the gift] has been given"* (Matthew 19:11).

## Singleness has its advantages.

- 1) 1 Corinthians 7:28 - Single people are *spared the “troubles” of marriage.*
- 2) 1 Corinthians 7:32 Single people are able to *devote themselves fully to God’s work.*

## Singleness has advantages.

But those who marry will face many troubles in this life, and I want to spare you this (1 Corinthians 7:28)

An unmarried man is concerned about the Lord’s affairs—how he can please the Lord (1 Corinthians 7:32)

**Now, the opposite to Paul's response is to PANIC.** So often when a person is single, they give into fear and unbelief, and they start to **PANIC**.

**Fear leads to panic, but faith leads to patience.**

*Your biological clock may be ticking but God's timing is always perfect.* If you have to compromise your faith, character or integrity to be in a relationship with someone - I'm telling you right now - ***you're putting a downpayment on regret.*** Because panic will bring pain to your relationships.

I've seen single people do some crazy things because they choose fear instead of faith - and they ***panic.*** Why? **Because panic always leads to desperation.**

**But *patience* will produce peace as you pursue God's purpose.**

**Patience will lead you to your God-appointed destination.**

If you're here today and find yourself single, **let me assure you from God's word:**

You may be single - but with Jesus, you're *never second class.*

You may be single - but with Jesus, you're *never alone.*

You may be single - but with Jesus, you *never have to be afraid.*

You may be single - but with Jesus, you *can be content.*

You may be single - but with Jesus, you *can have peace* as you pursue God's purpose in life.

**You may be *single* - but with Jesus, you can be *satisfied.***