

Maximizing Your Season of Singleness

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One of the greatest challenges for singles is overcoming loneliness. Loneliness is an incapacitating feeling that can creep into the hearts of people, even when they are surrounded by others.

The Greatest Relationship: Your Relationship to God

(Gen 2:7) And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.

- Sealed by the Holy Spirit
- We cannot be connected to God without His Spirit in us
- John 3 (Born Again)
- Every Born Again believer is connected to God. Their relationship with God must be their first and foremost priority
- Every other relationship is secondary to this one

Relationship Dynamic #1: God's Established Provision

(v.8) And the LORD God planted a garden eastward in Eden; and there he put the man whom he had formed.

(v.9) And out of the ground made the LORD God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of knowledge of good and evil.

(v.10) And a river went out of Eden to water the garden; and from thence it was parted, and became into four heads.

- The first thing that God did with Adam was to provide him a place to operate in
- God provided everything Adam needed to be successful
- Adam's only need was food
- God provided an entire garden and fed the garden with four streams (from one source), to ensure the provision would never run out
- God wants you to prosper as a person:
 - As an individual person
 - As a single person
 - As a single minister of the gospel
 - As a complete, whole, and satisfied single minister

Relationship Dynamic #2: God's Established Purpose

(v.15) And the LORD God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it.

- Adam had provision, but he was lacking purpose
- Provision without purpose is dangerous
- Provision without purpose causes people to go astray
- God gave Adam an assignment
- Before Adam could learn to cultivate a woman, he had to learn to cultivate the garden
- He was to keep the garden in order
- The word **dress**: This word means: (To labor / To work / To serve)
- The word **keep**: This word means: (To maintain / To preserve / To protect)
- You need to both **Work** and **Protect** your ministry.
- **Work your ministry**:
 - While you are single, you need to maximize your time to work the ministry God has called you to. God does not reward laziness.

- (Prov 10:4 CEV) Laziness leads to poverty; hard work makes you rich.
- **Protect your ministry:**
 - If you are busy working, then you will not lost focus and mishandle the anointing upon your life.
 - **(1st Corinthians 10:8-13 CEV) “Some of those people did shameful things, and in a single day about twenty-three thousand of them died. Don't do shameful things as they did. And don't try to test Christ, as some of them did and were later bitten by poisonous snakes. Don't even grumble, as some of them did and were killed by the destroying angel. These things happened to them as a warning to us. All this was written in the Scriptures to teach us who live in these last days. Even if you think you can stand up to temptation, be careful not to fall. You are tempted in the same way that everyone else is tempted. But God can be trusted not to let you be tempted too much, and he will show you how to escape from your temptations.”**
 - Keep yourself pure.
 - Abstain from sin.
 - Protect the anointing and the assignment the Lord ha given you.

Relationship Dynamic #3: God's Established Parameters

(vv.16, 17 KJV) And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.

- The man now had provision and purpose and he was prospering.
- God took it a step further and established parameters within which man would operate.
- Violating this instruction would result in sudden death.
- Having parameters are healthy in our relationship with God.
- *God's commandments (parameters) remind us that we are in authority, but also under authority.* God's commandments remind us that it is He that made us and not we ourselves (Ps 100:3).
- God gives you freedom to operate in liberty, but directs you not to sin.
- Adam had the liberty to thrive in ministry and in dominion.
- His only limitation was the parameters God established.
- Never forget the parameters God has established in His Word.

The 2nd Greatest Relationship: Your Relationship to other Humans

In Genesis 2:18 we find the first mention of God attributing anything other than His goodness to something.

(Gen 2:18 MSG) GOD said, "It's not good for the Man to be alone; I'll make him a helper, a companion."

- God Himself stated that is was *not good* for man to be alone.
- The word alone in this verse literally means: *single, by one's self, separated.*
- This could clearly not be a reference to man's relationship with God, because in that sense we know that this man was thriving.
- Man had already received God's Spirit and His provision, purpose, and parameters. This must mean that the state of being "alone," that God called "not good," was a reference to man's relationship with other humans.

- God's answer to the loneliness problem is found in the same verse: God would provide him a **companion** – *another human being*.

In the immediate sense, the following verses explain a marriage relationship between this man (Adam) and his new companion (Eve), but companionship is not limited to the marriage covenant. We find here that there is a definite need for man to have healthy and flourishing relationships with other humans.

A human can have a healthy relationship with God, but if they do not have healthy relationships with other humans, they will find themselves feeling lonely. Another dynamic of this relationship is found in Genesis 2:25:

(Gen 2:25 MSG) The two of them, the Man and his Wife, were naked, but they felt no shame.

- This is very important because it displays a picture of walking in the Spirit (Rom 8:14, Gal 5:16).
- Later on, after they committed sin and were separated from the presence of God (the Holy Spirit), they felt shame, and they attempted to cover their shame with fig leaves (Gen 3:7).
- In that light we can see that the picture of Adam and Eve walking shameless is a picture of two humans walking in the Spirit together. *This companionship fostered their relationship one with another and it also their relationship with God.* Solomon said it this way, **“Iron sharpeneth iron; so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend”** (Prov 27:17).

Note: *Once you understand your relationship with God and your relationships with others, you can prepare yourself to maximize your season of Singleness.*

3 Keys to Maximizing Your Singleness

Key #1. Understand Your Identity

If you don't know who you are, others will influence you to become what they desire you to be. We already stated that your relationship with God must be your greatest relationship. It is this relationship that will help solidify your identity.

God created Adam and immediately placed him in his designated location – the garden of Eden. God then gave Adam specific instructions to tend, guard, and keep the garden (Gen 2:15). Adam was to rule the garden as God ruled the universe. Adam was created in the image of God and he had God-given authority over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, the beasts of the field, the creeping things, and over all of the earth (Gen 1:26). He was busy fulfilling his assignment before the Lord gave him a mate.

Adam was single, complete, and satisfied; busy, hard-working, and occupied. Adam knew who he was and what he was assigned to do; he saw himself as God saw him.

Singles who fail to see themselves as God sees them and to occupy themselves with their God-given assignment are susceptible to outside influences. The outside influence may take them away from their purpose and off their God-ordained course. This loss of focus eventually leads to frustration.

(Gen 2:18 MSG) GOD said, "It's not good for the Man to be alone; I'll make him a helper, a companion."

- God said it was not good for man to be alone.
- Adam never made that statement
- Adam was never incomplete prior to the arrival of Eve.
- *He was not inadequate, incomplete, or insecure.* He did not have a low self-esteem.
- Marriage will not make you complete if you are not already complete.

Many singles read this scripture and assume they must immediately go out and find a mate. In context, they must realize that Adam was focused on his assignment and God manifested his mate in His own timing.

Singles – especially Singles in Ministry – must stay focused on what God has given them to do and God will open the door for a mate at the right time. If they know who they are and what they are to do, they will see themselves as complete, happy, and satisfied.

Key #2. Understanding Your Gift

In 1st Corinthians 9 Paul made the case for his Apostleship. In the 5th verse he compares himself with the other Apostles:

(1st Corinthian 9:5 CEV) We each have the right to marry one of the Lord's followers and to take her along with us, just as the other apostles and the Lord's brothers and Peter do.

- Paul points out that other Apostles were married and that he had to right to marry as well.
- This also gives us to know that he had a choice in the matter.
- Paul chose not to marry.
- Why is this important? Because it helps us understand that *singleness is not a curse*. As a matter of fact, Paul had previously pointed out some benefits to being single.

1st Corinthians 7:7: This is a very important verse. Let's look at it in a few different translations:

King James Version: For I would that all men were even as I myself. But every man hath his proper gift of God, one after this manner, and another after that.

The Amplified Bible: I wish that all men were like I myself am [*in this matter of self-control*]. But each has his own special gift from God, one of this kind and one of another.

The Message Bible: Sometimes I wish everyone were single like me--a simpler life in many ways! But celibacy is not for everyone any more than marriage is. God gives the gift of the single life to some, the gift of the married life to others.

- The point is that **“every man hath his proper gift of God.”**
- Understanding your **“proper gift”** is the key.
- There is a gift of singleness and a gift of marriage.
- Singles do not have the external demands on their time that married believers do. As a single person you have a greater opportunity to solidify your foundation and your relationship with God.

- Once you are married you are commanded by God to minister to your spouse. *A single believer is free to maximize their time and effort towards God and the Kingdom.*
- If your gift is to be single and you get married, you will not be happy. If your gift is to be married and you refuse to marry, you will not be happy.

Key #3. Understanding God's Timing

God gives everyone the grace for their assignment and for His timing. If your gift is to be single, you will receive the anointing necessary to be single and complete. If your gift is to be married, you will receive the anointing necessary to be married and complete. If you will eventually be married, but are currently single, God will give you the anointing necessary to be complete for this season and will lead you towards marriage *at the right time.*

The timing factor is very important. God said that He would “**make**” Adam a helper mate. God is fully capable of providing the opportunity for a mate to any single person, but remember that the opportunity was presented in God's time.

Many singles feel a deep desire to marry, simply because their friends are married. This is something that must be God-led and God-ordained. Singles should fully exhaust their season of singleness. This is not a season that you can return to once you are married.

(1st Corinthians 7:25 KJV) Now concerning virgins I have no commandment of the Lord: yet I give my judgment, as one that hath obtained mercy of the Lord to be faithful.

- The word used for “mercy” here literally means: “Divine Help” or “Divine Grace.”
- Paul received Divine Grace from God to remain faithful.
- God is no respecter of persons (Acts 10:34).
- You can tap into that same Divine Grace.
- God will keep you in your season of singleness, if you allow Him to.
- God will permit what **You** permit!

Discover your identify in Christ, seek understanding for your gift, and discern God's timing. If you do these things you will be able to maximize your singleness and bring glory to God.

Golden Nuggets to Take Away:

1. You can be a Born-Again, Spirit-filled believer, and not be married.
2. As a single believer you can be surrounded by other believers and receive the benefits of Godly companionship without having to resign yourself to a life of loneliness.
3. Godly companionship, true friendship, and pure fellowship; can all be experienced prior to marriage. *You might be single, but you don't have to be alone! Establish Godly relationships and experience the Goodness of God!*
4. If you don't know who you are, others will influence you into becoming what they desire for you to be.
5. Celibacy is not for everyone any more than marriage is.
6. There is a time and a season and a time for every purpose in God.