

The Gift of Singleness

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Singleness is a gift!
Re-Gifting
The Surprise Gift

The Gift of Singleness

Matthew 19:10-12

10 The disciples said to him, "If this is the situation between a husband and wife, *it is better not to marry.*" 11 Jesus replied, "Not everyone can accept this word, but *only those to whom it has been given.* 12 For some are eunuchs because they were born that way; others were made that way by men; and others have renounced marriage because of the kingdom of heaven. *The one who can accept this should accept it.*"

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3 Types of People who have been given the gift of singleness:

1. Those who were so born and were probably physically unable to consummate marriage OR who have the ability but lack the desire.

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3 Types of People who have been given the gift of singleness:

2. Those who have been physically made unable by accident or man to consummate marriage.

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3 Types of People who have been given the gift of singleness:

3. Those who have chosen not to marry for the Kingdom's sake.

The Gift of Singleness

According to 1 Corinthians 7:7-8,
Paul had the gift of singleness...

7 I wish that all men were *as I am*. But each man has *his 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 am*.

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According to 1 Corinthians 7:7-8,
Paul had the gift of singleness...
after his marriage ended.

Earlier in his life, Paul was a member of the Sanhedrin. Jewish culture tells us that you had to be **married** to be a member of this body.

So, was Paul *widowed or divorced*???

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The Benefits of Singleness:

1. Avoids the troubles that come from marriage.

1 Corinthians 7:28

But those who marry will face *many troubles* in this life, and I want to spare you this.

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MARRIAGE = WORK!

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The Benefits of Singleness:

2. Freedom from the concerns and demands placed upon us by a spouse.

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1 Corinthians 7:32-34

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*.

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The Benefits of Singleness:

3. Freedom to devote oneself totally to the Lord in relationship and ministry.

I Corinthians 7:35

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.

The Gift of Singleness

What does it look like?

1. You have reached a place of being content in being single.
2. You do not struggle with the need for sexual satisfaction.
3. You are not overly concerned with having a romantic relationship.

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What does it look like?

4. You give little thought to marriage.
5. You find great satisfaction in using your spare time to serve the Lord.

The Gift of Singleness

Your marital status has nothing to do with what God can accomplish through you in ministry!

You are in the company of...

Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Hosea, John the Baptist, JESUS, Mary, Martha, Lazarus, Mary Magdalene, Paul, Timothy, Titus and others!

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You are complete in Him, not in any other person...

including a spouse!

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Colossians 2:8-10

8 Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ. 9 For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; 10 and **you are complete in Him**, who is the head of all principality and power.

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Discussion Questions:

1. What do you think it means to “renounce marriage because of the Kingdom of Heaven”?

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Discussion Questions:

2. Do you see the choice not to marry or remarry as a valid option in our society today? Why or why not?

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Discussion Questions:

3. What do you see as the main benefit of being single? Why?

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Discussion Questions:

4. After gaining a better understanding of what the gift of singleness looks like, do you feel that you may have this gift? Why or why not?