



Single Doesn't Mean Alone

Matthew 19:1-12

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Single [sing-guhl]

[1] only one in number; one only

[2] of, relating to, or suitable for one person only

[3] solitary or sole; lone

We are a "church culture" within a "larger culture."

"Let me tell you the most devastating attack on marriage is coming from singleness. Singleness is an assault on marriage. Marriage is the grace of life...This escalating self-preoccupation, personal ambition, personal development...that creates a kind of terminal singleness is devastating on obviously the family...I just see singleness as a disaster."

- John MacArthur

Defining Features of Romanticism:

- We think the highest good of life is to be romantically fulfilled. We can't imagine a life without a romantic partner, for ourselves or anyone else.
- We can't imagine someone living without romantic hope.
- Everyone, we think, deserves to be in love.

Matthew 19:1-12

When Jesus had finished saying these things, he left Galilee and went into the region of Judea to the other side of the Jordan. Large crowds followed him, and he healed them there. Some Pharisees came to him to test him. They asked, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for any and every reason?"

"Haven't you read," he replied, "that at the beginning the Creator 'made them male and female,' and said, 'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh'? So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate."

"Why then," they asked, "did Moses command that a man give his wife a certificate of divorce and send her away?" Jesus replied, "Moses permitted you to divorce your wives because your hearts were hard. But it was not this way from the beginning. I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another woman commits adultery." The disciples said to him, "If this is the situation between a husband and wife, it is better not to marry." Jesus replied, "Not everyone can accept this word, but only those to whom it has been given. For there are eunuchs who have been so from birth, and there are eunuchs who have been made eunuchs by men, and there are eunuchs who have

made themselves eunuchs for the sake of the kingdom of heaven. Let the one who is able to receive this receive it.”

“Make disciples.”

- Jesus, Matthew 29:19

“In the New Testament we are not given any explicit mandate to marry and procreate physical human beings, we are given a new mandate to create more spiritual human beings.”

- Barry Danylak, *Redeeming Singleness*

“Marriage is a commandment in Jewish tradition and celibacy is deplored.”

- *The New Encyclopedia of Judaism*

1 Corinthians 7:7

I wish that all of you were as I am [single]. But each of you has your own gift from God; one has this gift, another has that.

1 Corinthians 7:29-31

What I mean, brothers and sisters, is that the time is short. From now on those who have wives should live as if they do not; those who mourn, as if they did not; those who are happy, as if they were not; those who buy something, as if it were not theirs to keep; those who use the things of the world, as if not engrossed in them. For this world in its present form is passing away.