



Single, Saved and Satisfied

Pr Buford Griffith Jr - former Secretary & Family Ministry Director for Southwestern Union Conference

While browsing the Internet one evening, I saw something regarding singleness that caught my eye. The statement was, “I’m Single Because God is Busy Writing the Best Love Story for Me. “Isn’t that a great phrase? Too many people, married or single, have the impression that being single is God’s way of depriving or punishing a person.

The Bible is such a practical book given to us by a wise, relational God. The apostle Paul states that we should “Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you” (1 Thessalonians 5:18, ESV). In another text of scripture the apostle counsels us by saying, “Not that I speak of want, for I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am. I know how to get along with humble means, and I also know how to live in prosperity; in any and every circumstance I have learned the secret of being filled and going hungry, both of having abundance and suffering need. I can do all things through Him who strengthens me” (Philippians 4:11, 13, emphasis supplied). There it is! Learning to be content with life. One of the biggest challenges in life is to be content in our various stages of life. It has been said that happiness is not having what you want. It is wanting what you have! God’s desire for each person is to be content in Christ, whatever circumstances we find ourselves in.

When it comes to issues pertaining to singleness, marriage, divorce, and remarriage, the question is not, “What will make me happiest?” but “What will make God happiest?” Singleness, like marriage, is a gift. The apostle Paul states, “each man has his own gift from God, one in this manner [singleness], and another in that [marriage]” (1 Corinthians 7:7, NASB). In society today, we discover a problem. Singles want to be married and some married people want to be single. The core of the problem is a lack of contentment—failing to value God’s gifts and timing. Married people must understand and be committed to their marriages, while singles must understand that they cannot operate and behave like married people.

Singleness is a gift and with the gift of singleness is the gift of abstinence. A single person is faced with the subtle and not-so-subtle pressures of those around them and the church arena tends to exert the most pressure as many Christians ascribe singleness as “unfinished business.” You may have heard the comments: “Aren’t you married yet?” “What’s a nice girl or guy like you doing unmarried?” “What you need is a good wife or husband.” “I’m praying that God will lead you to a good man or woman.” The big one: “If you would commit your life to Christ, God will give you a marriage partner.” Christ never said that! Christ’s message is that He will lead you to a life of meaning and purpose and fulfillment. God is a relational God, and He has created us to be relational beings. The question often asked in response to the statement just made is: “Doesn’t that suggest that God intends for every person to be coupled in a marriage relationship?” Not necessarily so. We relate to others in many ways and not necessarily in an intimate, marital relationship.

God is interested in our happiness and securing the best in our interaction with others. Satan is not interested in our happiness but in our destruction. He broadcasts certain lies about being single in an effort to thwart a person’s faith and confidence in God:

Lie No. 1: God is not powerful enough to find you a husband or wife. Remember that God is more powerful than our social situations, our looks, our personalities, and our insecurities.

Lie No. 2: You're single because God does not love you. If you can't see God's love on the cross, why do you think you will see it in a man/woman—especially sinful mankind?

Lie No. 3: Because no one has married you, you have no value. You were created in the image of God. Your value is not determined by mankind, but by God!

Lie No. 4: Getting married will fix all your problems. Marriage is not the best solution for every person.

Lie No. 5: It's better to marry a non-Christian than stay single for life. Follow the counsel of scripture, "Be not unequally yoked together with unbelievers, for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? And what communion hath light with darkness? (2 Corinthians 6:14, NKJV)." Sounds old fashioned and out of touch? It is safe to trust God and follow His counsel for your life.

Cultivate contentment in singleness. Contentment is all about a shift in perspective—a daily decision to trust God in all circumstances and to see Him at work in every chapter of your life. Instead of focusing on what you lack, remember and acknowledge all that you have.

- Cultivate a heart of gratitude (1 Thessalonians 5:18).
- Invest in your family and friend relationships.
- Pursue your God-given dreams. Don't put your ambitions and passions on hold until you find someone. Rather, dedicate your time and energy to fulfilling God's call on your life. He will bless you with someone along the way, if that is what is going to be best for your life. Place your dependence on God for fulfilment.
- Maintain high standards. There's no perfect person who will meet every one of your expectations, but you shouldn't compromise your core standards.
- Keep up spiritual practices. Regardless of your relationship status, things like prayer, time in the Word, will keep your spiritual life healthy.
- Encourage and serve others.

God has given you tasks and responsibilities to serve and provide lasting hope to those in need. You have a unique purpose and contribution to make to the world.

A final word is to surrender control of your life to God. Practice patience—God is shaping you and maturing you into the man or woman He has called you to be. He understands you better than anyone else. Enjoy being single, satisfied, and determined to be saved by the grace of God. Give God the pen, and let Him write your life story. It is going to be amazing!

