

What a Gift

-We've been told a lie: 1. Marriage is the only form of happiness
2. Singles are sad and lonely people

-There are three types of people in the room: 1. Married
2. Single & Ok with singleness
3. Single & Wants a marriage

-First of all, God loves marriage - HE CREATED IT!

Genesis 2:18 *"Then the Lord God said, 'It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him.'"*

*God saw Adam's need for a helper; one whom could complete him FOR THE TASKS the Lord had for him

*Marriage was created & meant to be a covenant between man and woman to represent Jesus' covenant with the church.

*Marriage is a wonderful thing but it is not the only path for everyone's life.

-Here's the secret - God loves people in their singleness too!

*The Father has a Word for the one in their single life; Paul in his letter to the church of Corinth answers their questions about marriage and singleness.

1 Corinthians 7:8-9 *"To the unmarried and the widows I say that it is good for them to remain single, as I am. But if they cannot exercise self-control, they should marry. For it is better to marry than to burn with passion."*

*It may be posed by the Corinthians asking whether or not a person should remarry after a divorce, separation or death of a spouse; Paul is saying it's actually a good thing for one to stay single and serve the Lord fully!

*It seems as if Paul discourages marriage; he understands the gift from God that it is and in previous and post verses writes and encourages husbands and wives.

*What Paul is doing is giving a warning; warning anyone who is not married about the temptations of a life dominated with sexual passions.

*Sex was designed for a husband and wife and them alone!

*In the Greek, *'let them marry'*, indicates a command; Paul knows the Christian life should be to serve and worship the Lord and is saying marriage is a much better route than burning with impure & lustful passions.

-Now there is a danger in allowing singleness became a dark cloud over one's head

-I know the tension in this world being single...Been there! It can be terrible! But let's shift our focus on a new perspective.

1. Singleness does not equal Loneliness

-This is a lie many of us, including myself, have let our minds believe!

1 Corinthians 7:32-35

*Paul is giving us a different perspective.

*Though marriage is GREAT, it splits our attention. Paul is elevating the idea that not being married is a great thing as well.

*We can fully serve the Lord and BE WITH the Lord without any distractions; a distortion free relationship with Jesus.

*God is jealous for our attention and with a life devoted to other idols, we can feel the separation from the Father

2. Godlessness DOES EQUAL Loneliness

-God does not leave us alone but our choices can push Him out of our attention.

1 Corinthians 7:7 *"I wish that all were as I myself am. But each has his own gift from God, one of one kind and one of another."*

*The Father has given us all a gift; we have to be willing to see it

*Singleness is a gift if you recognize it that way!

*We are NOT ALONE. No matter the decision, the choice, the circumstance...Jesus is here and He is all we need. It's our choice to embrace His loving arms.