

Committed

No Second-Class Citizens (Week 2)

LifeNotes

TALK IT OVER

Main Idea

Singleness is not a sentence, but a gift from God that is needed in our church today.

Key Scriptures

I wish that all of you were as I am. But each of you has your own gift from God; one has this gift, another has that.
1 Corinthians 7:7 NIV

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. 1 Corinthians 7:7 MSG

And don't be wishing you were someplace else or with someone else. Where you are right now is God's place for you. Live and obey and love and believe right there. God, not your marital status, defines your life. 1 Corinthians 7:17 MSG

But God has put the body together, giving greater honor to the parts that lacked it, so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it.
1 Corinthians 12:24-26 NIV

Key Ideas

We live in a world that says singleness is either the best thing ever, or a problem to be fixed.

“Singleness is not the problem—inability to see God's sovereignty in singleness is.”

Your marital status is a gift to be invested well.

Start talking.

- In what ways is singleness viewed by culture as the best thing ever?
- How does culture's views of singleness differ from the Church?
- In what ways has the Church been helpful and/or hurtful in its approach to singleness?

Start thinking.

- Take time and read the responses on Facebook to Pastor Joel's invitation to singles to share their thoughts. Which comments jumped out to you? Explain.
- If you are single, what other comments would you like to share? If you are married, how have you unintentionally overlooked singles?
- Read 1 Corinthians 7:7 in both the NIV and Message. How does that verse impact your understanding marital status?
- Read 1 Corinthians 7:17. How does this verse apply to all of us?
- Read 1 Corinthians 12:24-26. Regardless of marital status, what is the goal of our unity in the Body of Christ?

Start sharing.

- Based on what we've learned from scripture, what needs to shift in your views on marital status?
- Paul uses the word, “gift” in describing singleness and marriage. In the Greek the word is, “charisma”. It means: an extraordinary power given by God, for the purpose of serving the Body of Christ (the local expression of the Church) and bringing glory to Christ. How can your marital status serve Harbor and bring glory to Christ?

Start doing.

- Is there someone you have unfairly judged/treated that you need to seek their forgiveness?
- Who is the single person or married couple you need to invite over for dinner?

Closing prayer.

Jesus thank you for the gift of my current status. Help me to lean into it with all that I am. Reveal to me how best to serve the local church and to bring you glory. Help me to see those who are not like me, to pursue them, and to invite them in to the journey you have all of us on. Amen