

# **SINGLE ADULT: HOW DO I HONOR GOD**

## **SHOULD YOU PURSUE MARRIAGE?**

All humans desire an intimate relationship with someone who will know and love them deeply. The beautiful reality for all believers is that we can have this kind of relationship with God, and our lives then become about reflecting Him in the world and growing in His likeness throughout our lifetime. We see in the Bible that God calls his people to do these things either through seasons of singleness or seasons of marriage. How can you best honor God in this time?

## **QUESTION ONE: Am I called?**

The best way to honor God in a season of singleness is to be intentionally set apart for His purposes. God's people recognize that His call to a season of singleness is much different from the single culture of the world because singleness as a Christian includes active engagement in Christian community, faithful stewardship of your talents and resources, and a commitment to absolute purity. Singles who respond to God's calling in a season of singleness will find it easier to discern if God is calling them toward Biblical marriage or continued celibate service as a single.

## **QUESTION TWO: Am I stalled?**

Popular American culture tends to discourage an others-focused lifestyle. For single individuals, culture often implies that we can live a more exciting and fulfilling life by remaining unmarried. Even Christians with the best intentions can drift into a single lifestyle marked by hyper individualism, disconnection from Christian community, consumption, and recreational relationships. When we follow this cultural path, it's no surprise when some single Christians find their lives stalling out to loneliness, a series of broken relationships, and a general lack of purpose. Those who find themselves in this cycle need to pause and reflect on how to become intentional rather than passive with regard to the single life. Other single individuals may stall over a deep desire for marriage. Any individual with an unmet desire, and waiting over a long period of time, may have periods of struggle, mixed with periods of contentment. This is normal, and seasons of trial and struggle help us discover deeper relationship with God as the One who satisfies. Finding a trusted person to help you process and point you to truth in periods of struggle is a practical and wise step; this might be a friend, a mentor, and at times, a professional Christian counselor may be truly invaluable.

# DISTINCT OPPORTUNITIES

Whatever the circumstances of your life, you can find purpose and fulfillment as you break away from a stalled culture and honor God in hopeful pursuit of either celibate service or a God-honoring marriage:

**Celibate Service** - Dr. Al Mohler of Southern Seminary explains that celibacy means sacrificing the companionship of marriage, the pleasures of sex and the blessing of children for your entire life without being bitter about it.

In that context, serving God in celibacy makes full engagement in the body of Christ – giving and receiving fellowship – vitally important. It is not a “consolation prize” for those who haven’t yet found a spouse – but a purposeful life devoted to serving others as worship and “being Jesus” to others.

**Marriage and Family** - Singles who don’t feel called to celibacy should pursue a Biblical marriage (Ephesians 5:22-33) with hopeful preparation. While one may not know how and when they will marry, they can become intentional about eliminating roadblocks. They can remain faithful in purity, stewardship and community. They can also take initiative and pray purposefully for a good marriage. For men it means moving beyond passivity and taking the initiative to “leave and cleave” (Genesis 2:24) and to “find” a wife (Proverbs 18:22). For women, it means preparing for marriage in prudence (Proverbs 19:14), in purity (Ephesians 5:1-5), in community (Titus 2:3-5 and Ephesians 4:11-16), and in prayerfulness (Matthew 7:7-9 and Matthew 21:21-22). As an unmarried person, you have distinct opportunities to grow in your faith and to make a substantial contribution to the kingdom. Surround yourself with trustworthy fellow believers, reach out for help as often as needed, and lean into where God has you today!

## GOING FURTHER: RESOURCES

**Boundless.org webzine** | Offers young adults encouragement to live abundantly as singles while seeking God’s best in either celibacy or marriage.

**That Sounds Fun podcast** | With a special heart for singles, podcaster and author Annie F. Downs curates thoughtful and fun conversations.

**Seven Myths of Singleness**, by Sam Allberry

If marriage shows us the shape of the gospel, singleness shows us its sufficiency. His book delves into the practicality of living as a Christian in a season of singleness.

**Seasons of Waiting**, by Betsy Childs Howard

Her book helps paint the bigger picture for single believers: “When we wait faithfully with unmet longings, we become a powerful picture of the bride of Christ waiting for the day when he returns and God’s kingdom reigns.”

## GOING FURTHER: BLUE RIDGE BIBLE CHURCH SUPPORT

Life Groups BRBC offers a variety of Life Groups to help foster connection and support, for all adults

during all seasons of life. Check out the current Life Groups to find one that fits your schedule at [brbible.org/lifegroups](http://brbible.org/lifegroups).

**Finding Support:** We can recommend a brother or sister at BRBC willing to share their experience in this season. (Or perhaps you are willing to be a resource for others in this season.) Our BRBC pastors are willing and available to speak with you, listen, and help provide direction. Reach out to us at [lifepoint@brbible.org](mailto:lifepoint@brbible.org).

**Professional Counseling:** Professional Counseling We maintain a referral list of Christian counselors, therapists, and psychologists in the Northern Virginia area. Since we live in a broken world, the problems we encounter can be very complex and difficult to navigate. We know that God's Word is powerful, His Spirit is inside of us, and that He uses his Church in many ways. Yet He also provides us with other sources of help that can partner with churches seeking to come alongside people in times of spiritual, physical, mental & emotional need. Contact us if you would like assistance finding someone who might be of help to you: [lifepoint@brbible.org](mailto:lifepoint@brbible.org)