

SINGLENES AND HOW TO WEAR IT WELL

As an unmarried person, you have distinct opportunities to grow in your faith and to make a substantial contribution to the kingdom. In fact, the season you're in has the potential to be the most formative period of your life. How can you best honor God in this time?

Many Christians wonder if they should move toward marriage or embrace the kind of single life the apostle Paul talks about in 1 Corinthians 7. In order to evaluate your situation, ask yourself a question..

MARRIAGE TO CHRIST

First and foremost, we are called to be the bride of Christ. If there is not a specific call on your life to pursue either singleness or marriage, you must pursue Christ. He is our Father and Friend, but also our lover. Keeping your eyes on Christ is the most important relationship in this season. You are still to seek fellowship and practice purity to honor the temple of Christ that is in you. As we see demonstrated through the relationship of Hosea Gomer, Jesus loves us intensely and intentionally.

WHAT AM I CALLED TO?

In the scriptures God calls adults to follow one of two callings—either a path to Biblical marriage or a life of celibacy (Genesis 2, 1 Corinthians 7). The best way to honor God in your singleness is to be intentionally set apart for His purposes.

SINGLENES

If you have prayerfully sought out the Lord's guidance and feel called to singleness, this means that you are forgoing marriage and sex without bitterness. Serving God in singleness means engaging in the body of Christ- giving and receiving fellowship- is vitally important. The call to singleness is a purposeful lifestyle devoted to your relationship with the Lord first and others second.

MARRIAGE

If you have prayerfully sought out the Lord's guidance and feel called to marriage, this means you must move forward with hopeful expectation for a spouse. It entails a dedication to prayer, purity, and fellowship. For men it means moving beyond passivity and taking initiative to "leave and cleave" (Genesis 2:24) and to "find" a wife (Proverbs 18:22) and to pursue purity.. For women, it means preparing for marriage in prudence (Proverbs 19:14), purity (Ephesians 4:11-16) and prayer (Matthew 7:7-9).

HELPFUL RESOURCES:

Captivating by John and Stasi Eldridge.

Captivating: Unveiling the Mystery of a Woman's Soul is a book published in 2005 by

John Eldredge and his wife Stasi. The book rejects the idea of an ideal woman and explores biblical scripture from the view that God desires woman to embrace her glory, rather than fear her femininity.

Wild at Heart by John Eldridge

Wild at Heart: Discovering the Secret of a Man's Soul is a book by John Eldredge published in 2001, on the subject of the role of masculinity in contemporary evangelical Christian culture and doctrine.

Purpose Driven Life by Rick Warren

The Purpose Driven Life is a bible study book written by Christian pastor Rick Warren and published by Zondervan in 2002. The book offers readers a 40-day personal spiritual journey and presents what Warren says are God's five purposes for human life on Earth.