

WEEKLY REFLECTION

Singleness is a tricky, thorny topic to address. Everyone has different feelings and thoughts on singleness. But the truth is that we all came into this world single. Even for married people, you might end up being single again.

There is no marriage in heaven (Matt. 22:28-30). Marriage is a temporary institute that points to the coming return and glory of Christ. Marriage should show us the shape of the gospel by reflecting the love that Christ has for His Church. Singleness is just as powerful, as it shows us the sufficiency of the gospel. Jesus, God made flesh to become man amongst men, the most perfect and complete human being to ever walk the face of the earth, was single. Marriage and singleness shouldn't be at odds with one another. Neither is morally superior, and neither communicates moral truths about who we are.

Church, let us know these things in spirit, heart, and truth: (1) That we are loved and enough. (2) That both marriage and singleness are gifts for the Kingdom of God. If your relationship impacts your world more than it impacts God's world, it is time to reflect. If your singleness is self-seeking and self-serving rather than God-seeking and God-serving, it is time to reflect. (3) If you feel lonely as a single, know that we were made to be in relationship. The triune God is Himself in relationship with the Father, Son, and Spirit. As His sons and daughters, we are made to be in relationship with God and with man.

Lastly, and most of all—our purpose should be to seek the Lord with all of our heart, mind, soul, and strength. To love Him and His people, and in all things to worship and glorify Him. Whether we are single or in relationship, that remains the same. So the question is this: do you have an undivided attention and devotion to the Lord? If not, how can you and your community help you to get there?

QUESTIONS

QUESTION ONE:

It was mentioned on Sunday that we often tend to pit the highs of singleness against the lows of marriage / relationship, and the highs of marriage / relationship against the lows of singleness.

What are some of the highs and lows that you currently face as a married or single person? We encourage you to share your experiences with your group as candidly as possible.

How can you have a more balanced view of both singleness and relationship as you walk alongside friends and / or family who are either single, in relationship, or married?

QUESTION TWO:

One of the truths that was stressed upon in the sermon is the truth that we are loved, and we are enough. However, it is easy for us to forget that truth in many different ways, especially when it comes to the topic of our relationship status.

For single people, it might be a sense of shame for being single, whether it is self- or externally-imposed. For married people or people in relationship, it might be the temptation to find your self-worth and validation from your significant other.

What causes us to forget the truth that we are loved, and that we are enough? How can God answer these questions of identity and belonging?

QUESTION THREE:

One of the most prominent struggles for singles as mentioned on Sunday is that of loneliness and self-centeredness.

If you are currently single, how do those issues manifest in your own life? If you are married / currently in relationship, do you share those struggles as well?

How does God's call for healthy intimacy within the Body of Christ help us to tackle these challenges, both married / dating people, and singles alike?

How can the people within your group be walking more intimately with you to venture through the highs and lows of singleness or the highs and lows of marriage / the dating relationship? Lastly and most importantly, how can we be challenging each other to grow in our undivided attention and devotion to the Lord?