

THE LIFE OF A SINGLE ADULT

1 Corinthians 7:32-33 ... “But I want you to be without care. He who is unmarried cares for the things of the Lord—how he may please the Lord. But he who is married cares about the things of the world—how he may please his wife.”

Many persons who read these devotionals are single adults. We have many single friends. I, myself, was single more than half of my lifetime. I once led a church singles group. I have counseled many single adults who were disappointed that they had not yet found a spouse. Perhaps you are getting older and are wondering why you have not yet found the love of your life.

There can be many reasons for an adult to be without a companion. Certainly, one's personality has something to do with it. If you are often angry, frustrated, or depressed (by choice, not clinically), you make yourself very unappealing to others. No man wants to marry a woman who is constantly depressed, and no woman wants a man who is angry and impatient. The Philippines is one of only two countries that prohibits divorce, but that does not stop couples from separating. There are just as many families that are torn apart from separation and adultery, as there are in countries that allow divorce. So, if you are married but separated, you may find it difficult to find love because adultery is a sin that good people want to avoid.

It may not be God's will for you to marry, or you may have to wait for many years. There are many tasks that God wants done that are best done by singles. If you are married, you must spend the majority of your time with your spouse and children, because they are your primary ministry. Today's verse is not a criticism of marriage, but a recognition of what God expects. If you are not married, you are free to serve the church without feeling guilty about neglecting your family. You can spend hours practicing with the worship team or preparing for the Bible study you lead. Single adults are available to help others in times of personal crisis; they can leave home in the middle of the night to comfort someone, without getting their spouse's permission.

I understand the occasional loneliness that single adults experience. I, too, felt that. I understand there are things in life that are just more fun and satisfying when you do them with a friend. Many, many times I considered taking a trip or going to a movie, then changed my mind when I realized it would not be much fun without a companion. But when I realized that my singleness gave me more freedom and time to serve God, I found satisfaction in doing that. You can struggle with your singleness and become frustrated or discouraged, or you can accept it and get to work for God. A wise pastor told me once, that until you are comfortable with being single, God cannot bless you with a spouse. I firmly believe that and I offer that hope to you. If you are a single adult, find your joy by staying busy serving God.

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