

Dwelling in God's word:

A STUDY ON

BEING SINGLE



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As redeemed sinners we live in a state of grace. We have received eternal life and a right relationship with our God through the death and resurrection of the Son.

See Matthew 6:25–34. How do we receive God's gifts? How can we get more or less? How does this text compare and contrast with Matthew 25:14–30?

Jesus gave us a prayer in which we ask God to give us our daily bread. But what do we do when our daily bread is different to that of our neighbours? What do we do when we've asked for chicken mignon, but God has given us steak? (See Job.)

For most of the characters in the Old Testament marriage was the norm; their struggles with singleness came from barrenness or death.

**Where is their hope?
See Psalm 113:9 and Genesis 38.**

It is through our brokenness that God's grace abounds. Essentially, God loves people into his kingdom! Grace breaks into our lives whenever we recognise our need for God. Luther suggests that we should recognise this need on a daily basis. That includes being aware that often we trust ourselves more than we trust in what Jesus has done.

**Read Matthew 11:28–30.
How might this relate to your story?**

These days many more people are single. Some have always been so, some are single again, through death, divorce, or break-ups. For all of us our hope is the same. It is in Jesus Christ – his provision in this life and the eternal life to come. In our baptisms we received the Holy Spirit who creates faith and guides us. And the Holy Spirit through Paul gives a whole chapter to the topic of singleness (1 Corinthians 7). Here the Spirit lifts up the vocation of singleness, just as he lifted up children, servants and the broken.

After reading this chapter, discuss the practical benefits of being single for the life of the church and the missionary opportunities that are opened up.

The single life also has its own challenges. Discuss the challenges of being single that arise from 1 Corinthians 7, as well as those in 1 Timothy 5:1–16.

Our God is creative, and can make good out of our evil. As our only norm and source of truth, the Bible shows a few ways that our time now with sin is vastly different to how life was in Eden.

Consider the tension between Genesis 1:29 and Genesis 9:2–4 and Acts 10:9–15. Then compare Genesis 2:18 and Matthew 19:11–12.

Like people serving in all Christian vocations, singles rely on Jesus' strength in weakness and experience both joys and sorrows. With singleness there is often the internal and external expectation that it will change. We are created through the 'one-fleshness' of our parents and often feel pressured to receive the same gifts that our parents and friends have received.

How can we ease the struggles of single people in our communities? Discuss.

During one of the Pharisees' attacks, Jesus gives some odd comfort to divorcees and people with multiple marriage partners.

Read Mark 12:18–27. Is this text comforting? Why? Why not? See also 1 Corinthians 15:35–38.

We are one eternal family walking together by faith. Married or single we receive companions for the road (Ecclesiastes 4:12, Luke 10:1). Our Heavenly Father has created these gifts of singleness and marriage and will provide you with your daily bread and what's best for your eternal salvation.

See Psalm 31.