

**MORNING BREAKOUT SESSION - "Single-minded Singleness"**

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Among Christians today, singleness is often a status to be avoided or to get through as soon as possible. In contrast, God's Word speaks of singleness as a gift from God which enables Him to secure a season of undistracted devotion to Himself. Rather than pining away about marriage or becoming distracted with trivial pursuits, we will be considering in this workshop how the season of singleness can be used to live for "an audience of one", while best preparing for marriage as we do so.

## **1 Corinthians 7**

**V7 - God will gift people with a time of singleness, to secure a season of undistracted devotion to Himself.**

**V8-9 - If God has called & gifted a person to a life of singleness, it will also be accompanied with a supernatural ability to exercise self-control over their sexual desires.**

**V25-28 - Marriage is good, but singleness has its advantages.**

- Being single makes it possible for a person to serve God in many ways that a married person could not.

**V29-31 - Singles should consider marriage and life in general with an eternal perspective.**

**V32-35 - Singles have the opportunity to single-mindedly serve and please God with less distraction.**

- Being single can make it easier to focus on serving God because having a marriage and family takes a lot of time.
- Although singles have the opportunity to single-mindedly serve & please God with less distraction, a single person must be careful not to trade marital distractions for other distractions.

**V36-38 - Although singleness is good and has its advantages, marriage is good too, so it should be seriously & soberly considered as an option for a person's life.**

For those who are single but desire to be married, if it's the Lord's will, you can know that He has someone picked for you – someone who is hand-selected!

Maybe it's someone you know and is in your life right now – or maybe you've never met that person before.

Either way, what's stopping you from starting to pray for that person – maybe not by name, but you can start asking the Lord to bless them, prepare them, protect them, and grow them in their walks with Christ.

#### **4 practical things that you can be doing now as you wait upon God for His timing in bringing along a spouse...**

1. Spend time learning what things to look for in a future spouse.
2. Spend time becoming what your future spouse needs for you to be.
3. Gear your life now in such a way that will make it very complimentary for a future spouse to be part of.
4. Give yourself to serving God wholeheartedly within the church.

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#### **SUGGESTED RESOURCES**

- Listen to “The Gift Of Singleness” online at [www.redemptionchurch.org.nz](http://www.redemptionchurch.org.nz)
- Read “What He Must Be”, by Voddie Baucham
- Read “It's Not That Complicated”, by Anna Sofia & Elizabeth Botkin

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#### ***Prayer for myself as a single – that I would...***

1. **View my singleness as a gift whereby God has secured a season of undistracted devotion to Himself** (1 Corinthians 7:7).
2. **Use my season of singleness as an opportunity to single-mindedly serve & please God** (1 Corinthians 7:32-35)
3. **Avoid the temptation of trading marital distractions with other distractions** (1 Corinthians 7:32-25).
4. **Practice selflessness while I am still single** (Philippians 2:3-4).
5. **Be given the God-given ability to exercise self-control, and not fall into sexual temptation** (1 Corinthians 7:9)
6. **Devote myself to doing radical, time-consuming things for God.**
7. **Avoid the temptation to primarily use my time to primarily pursue marriage, but that I would primarily pursue Jesus and His will for this season.**
8. **Consider marriage with an eternal perspective** (1 Corinthians 7:29-31)
9. **Seek to find a fiancé on the front-lines who is also serving God wholeheartedly.**
10. **Seek to spend time with married couples & families who are functioning biblically, to observe & prepare for marriage if God wills at a future time.**
11. **Primarily place my hope in Jesus rather than primarily placing my hope in marriage as I wait.**