

Bad Reasons to be Single

I. Introduction

- a. Our series began with the goodness of singleness in which we considered some of the reasons why it is good to be single. Be we must also consider what are bad reasons that people give for why they want to be single.
- b. Purpose: To consider some problematic reasons people give for wanting to be or stay single, so that we forsake these bad reasons to be single and have right reasons for our season of being single and/or have good reasons to desire relationship and marriage.

II. Clarification needed: Be careful to understand what I am and what I am not saying

- a. By “bad reasons” we are not talking about mere personal preferences but sinful or anti-biblical reasons.
- b. Just because we identify bad reasons people have for being single does not mean that we are saying that such individuals should therefore get into a relationship immediately.
- c. What matters is to be single in godly contentment and/or right godly motive in desiring to be single/be in a relationship and pursuit of marriage.
- d. Sometimes the reason people give for not wanting to be in a relationship reveal the truth of why it is better for them to be single than to be in a relationship in light of who they are or their situation.
 - i. In such an instance, they at least know they have a problem if they were to be in a relationship.
 - ii. These people recognize their problems and are at a better stage than those who have the same problems but don’t recognize it and are actively pursuing a relationship or are in one!
- e. Since people with bad reasons for being single are better off being single than in a relationship why should we even care about bad reasons people have for being single?
 - i. If it’s sinful, it does not please God. Remember our whole purpose in life is to please God and glorify Him (**1 Corinthians 10:31**).
 - ii. Often the problems people have for being single also affects them socially and affects their fellowship with the church or their testimonies as Christians with unbelievers.

III. Bad reasons to be single

a. Bad reason 1: Want to have fun

- i. What people typically say: “I need to have fun first before I get married,” “You’re too young to be settled down, you’re missing out the single life”

ii. Interpreting this biblically

1. Often there is an assumption that marriage is not a gift from God or that it’s not joyful.

Contrary to **Proverbs 18:22**= “*He who finds a wife finds a good thing And obtains favor from the LORD.*”

2. There’s an error in this bad reason to be single; having joy and being in a committed relationship are not either/or; it can be “both/and.”

3. Sometimes when one probe more deeply of what people mean by “fun” in being single they are referring to the pleasures of sinful activities:
 - a. Sexual sins, which is contrary **1 Corinthians 6:9-10**.
 - b. Having many relationships, which is contrary to the biblical purpose of courtship is marriage.
- iii. Practice:
 1. See the beauty of what marriage is should be the most powerful motive for wanting marriage more than sinful reasons to be single. Study it from the Scriptures and from sound Christian marriage books!
 2. Study the holiness of God. Let your lens of what is “fun” be properly interpreted by Scriptures.
- b. Bad Reason 2: Want to have a lot of money
 - i. What people typically say: “I’m not going to get married, I need to make a lot of money first,” “No money, no honey” or “I don’t need a marriage commitment, I can be happy with just money.”
 - ii. Interpreting this biblically
 1. First off, money does not satisfy: “*He who loves money will not be satisfied with money, nor he who loves abundance with its income. This too is vanity.*” (**Ecclesiastes 5:10**)
 - a. The verse here states clearly: “*He who loves money will not be satisfied with money...*”
 - b. Remember with making money as a reason for living means one will never have enough, and one would always want to make some more money than they have, and thus it is true that love of money “*is vanity.*”
 2. Heed the words of Jesus: “*For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world, and forfeit his soul?*” (**Mark 8:36**)
 - iii. Practice:
 1. Sometimes this manifest with one being a workaholic. But one need to see being a workaholic for one’s own sake is problematic. Hear **Ecclesiastes 4:7-8**: “*Then I looked again at vanity under the sun. 8 There was a certain man without a dependent, having neither a son nor a brother, yet there was no end to all his labor. Indeed, his eyes were not satisfied with riches and he never asked, “And for whom am I laboring and depriving myself of pleasure?” This too is vanity and it is a grievous task.*”
 2. The only way one can remove the love of God: To know God’s love and to love God back.
- c. Bad Reason 3: Wounded in the past
 - i. What people typically say: “I won’t be in a relationship again, it hurts too much the last time I was with someone...,” “I don’t believe in love...”
 - ii. Interpreting this biblically
 1. Incorrect thought: Others sin does not mean it is the fault of everyone who want to court you, or you desire to court. We must judge correctly.

2. There might be a struggle with forgiveness: *“For if you forgive others for their transgressions, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. 15 But if you do not forgive others, then your Father will not forgive your transgressions.”* (Matthew 6:14-15)

iii. Practice:

1. *“He heals the brokenhearted And binds up their wounds.”* (Psalm 147:3)
 - a. Do you believe God is able to be a healer?
 - b. Go to God to be your healer!
 - c. Memorize this verse to move you to turn to God as your healer!
 - d. Believe God heals wounds no matter how painful it is now!
2. For someone with this issue you must believe that God
3. Study the Gospel to move you to forgive if there is issues of being unforgiven.
4. Also it is worth exploring through biblical counseling if one might have certain pattern of ungodly behaviors, thoughts and reactions that lead one to continuously have broken relationships.

d. Bad Reason 4: Don't want to grow in Christ

- i. Situation described: This individual might at first realize he's not ready for a relationship because of his or her sinfulness and this was a wise assessment. But then the person continues comfortably being in a state of being single and in a state that foster continuous worldliness.

ii. Interpreting this biblically

1. There's no verses in the Bible that promises you will be in a relationship or be married; but there are verses that is very clear that Christians will be growing in Christ in sanctification! Hear **1 Thessalonians 4:3**: *“For this is the will of God, your sanctification; that is, that you abstain from sexual immorality”*
2. Again such a person in this situation is right that if he doesn't want to grow in Christ and is not pursuing growth in Christ, he shouldn't be thinking about the responsibility of a relationship and marriage since he will hurt the relationship and marriage; but God also require one to grow in Christ!
3. Also make sure you are not thinking that being single in your sin somehow earns favor with God; no, every time we sin we displease God and need to repent. There is no self-works righteousness!

iii. Practice:

1. Pursue holiness!
2. Pursue holiness is hard; but let it be that your focus on Christ is what motivates you to be transformed: *“But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.”* (2 Corinthians 3:18)

e. Bad Reason 5: Way too good for anyone

- i. What people typically say: “There’s no one for me to be in a relationship,” or “There’s no one that meets my requirement.”
- ii. Example: Someone who goes to a church like Grace Community Church where John MacArthur pastor where there’s thousands of believers who believe in the Bible and pursuing godliness and yet there is a person say no one is good enough for them to consider as someone to court, be in a relationship with or marry.
- iii. Interpreting this biblically
 1. This issue can be tricky: On the one hand we need to have standards of who we are to be with; yet on the other hand some set the standard so high no one is good enough for them. To help us with this keep the following two verses and thoughts in mind:
 2. Thought #1: Be careful not to think of yourself too highly: “*For through the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think; but to think so as to have sound judgment, as God has allotted to each a measure of faith.*” (**Romans 12:3**)
 3. Thought #2: Reminder that we are all sinners: “*for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,*” (**Romans 3:23**)
 - a. This include you!
 - b. Even as believers we are still struggling with our old sinful nature!
- iv. Practice:
 1. Recall that this issue can be tricky; you want to have Godly standards for looking for a spouse yet you also don’t want to fall into the trap of thinking everyone is not good enough to be with. So go to someone who is married, hold to biblical principles for courtship and marriage, let them get to know you well and ask them if you have a problematic view of thinking you are “way too good for anyone.”
 2. Continue to grow in your godliness; the more you grow, the more you see your own sin and also God’s forgiving and sanctifying grace which cultivate godly humility in you in how you see yourself and how you see others relative to yourself.
 3. Also you might consider meditating on the truth that love is not only based upon how good someone is but it is love based upon God’s grace. Again we have to walk a fine line between holding God’s principles and standards for looking for a spouse and yet also acknowledge that people are not perfect and we love others based upon God’s grace.
- f. Bad Reason 6: No one is physically attractive enough
 - i. What people typically say: “There’s no one that matches my taste,” or “I’m not attracted by anyone around me” or worst “Everyone is too ugly for me.”
 - ii. Interpreting this biblically

1. Keep physical attraction and appearance in perspective: “*Charm is deceitful and beauty is vain, But a woman who fears the Lord, she shall be praised.*” (Proverbs 31:30)
 - a. Notice “*Charm is deceitful and beauty is vain*”
 - b. Notice what should be a priority: “*But a woman who fears the Lord, she shall be praised*”
 2. Realize everyone’s physical appearance will change. We will all grow old!
- iii. Practice:
1. Pray to God to see people’s godly character above physical appearance!
 2. Grow in godliness in seeing people’s godliness as more important than appearance. How?
 - a. Write down things that are godly about people you know at church (men and women, young and old, single or married).
 - b. Ask others what godly virtues they cherish in others in your church.
 3. Also have an accurate view of your own physical appearance. Let it humble you enough to the point that you are also not so vain in judging others’ physical appearance.
 4. Also remember that preferences of physical appearance will change; few people every marry exactly everything they are physically looking for!
- iv. Picture: In my own life I had the nickname of Asian Persuasion and yet I married someone who was not Asian and I love my wife!
- g. Hates the opposite gender
- i. What people typically say: A
 - ii. Interpreting this biblically
 1. “A” (A)
 2. Genesis 1:26-28, Male and female He created them
 - iii. Practice:
 1. A
- h. Negative view of relationship with the thought that it would not work out
- i. What people typically say: A
 - ii. Interpreting this biblically
 1. “A” (A)
 2. A
 - iii. Practice:
 1. A
- i. Afraid of commitment
- i. What people typically say: A
 - ii. Interpreting this biblically
 1. “A” (A)
 2. A
 - iii. Practice:

1. A
- j. Don't like Children
 - i. What people typically say: A
 - ii. Interpreting this biblically
 1. "A" (A)
 2. A
 - iii. Practice:
 1. A
 2. A
- k.