



Single

Should You
Pursue
Marriage?



HomeLife

Building your family's faith at home

— **Guides** —

Should You Pursue Marriage?

> *As an unmarried person, you have distinct opportunities to grow in your faith and to make a substantial contribution to the kingdom. In fact, the season you're in has the potential to be the most formative period of your life. How can you best honor God in this time?*

Many Christians wonder if they should move toward marriage or embrace the kind of single life the apostle Paul talks about in 1 Corinthians 7.

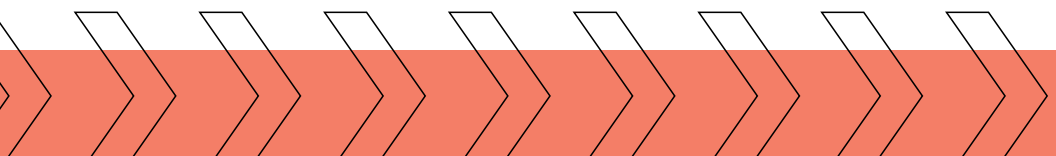
In order to evaluate your situation, ask yourself two questions:

Question 1 *Have I Been Stalled?*

Popular American culture tends to discourage marriage; implying people can live a more exciting, fulfilling life by remaining unmarried. Even Christians with the best intentions often drift into a single lifestyle marked by recreational relationships, hyper individualism, consumption and leisure. Following this cultural path, it's no surprise some Christian singles find their lives stalling out to loneliness, a series of broken relationships and a general lack of purpose. Those who find themselves in this cycle need to pause and reflect on how to become intentional rather than passive with regard to the single life.

Question 2 *To What Am I Called?*

In the Scriptures, God calls adults to follow one of two callings – either a path to biblical marriage or a life of celibate service (Genesis 2, 1 Corinthians 7). The best way to honor God in your singleness is to be intentionally set apart for His purposes, recognizing that His call to both marriage and singleness is much different from the popular, world philosophy of single culture because it includes a




commitment to absolute purity, active engagement in Christian community, and faithful stewardship of your talents and resources. Singles who cultivate such qualities find it easier to discern if God is calling them to biblical marriage or celibate service.

- **Celibate Service:** Dr. Al Mohler of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary explains that celibacy means sacrificing the companionship of marriage, the pleasures of sex and the blessing of children for your entire life without being bitter about it.

In that context, serving God in celibacy makes full engagement in the body of Christ – giving and receiving fellowship – vitally important. It is not a “consolation prize” for those who haven’t yet found a spouse – but a purposeful life devoted to serving others as worship and “being Jesus” to others.

- **Marriage and Family:** Singles who don’t feel called to celibacy should pursue a biblical marriage (Ephesians 5:22–33) with hopeful preparation. While one may not know how and when marriage will come, he or she can become intentional about eliminating roadblocks by remaining faithful in purity, stewardship and community. He or she can also take initiative and pray purposefully for a good marriage. For men, it means moving beyond passivity and taking the initiative to “leave and cleave” (Genesis 2:24) and to “find” a wife (Proverbs 18:22). For women, it means preparing for marriage in prudence (Proverbs 19:14), in purity (Ephesians 5:1–5), in community (Titus 2:3–5; Ephesians 4:11–16), and in prayerfulness (Matthew 7:7–9; 21:21–22).

 ***Whatever the circumstances of your life, you can find purpose and fulfillment as you break away from a stalled culture and honor God in hopeful pursuit of either celibate service or a God-honoring marriage.***

Going Further Resources

Get Married: What Women Can Do to Help It Happen

by Candice Watters // *Watters makes the case that a biblical marriage is an honorable pursuit; one that women can help nurture along. Her book helps women see how they can “live like they are planning to marry.”*

Single, Dating, Engaged, Marry: Navigating Life and Love

in the Modern Age by Ben Stuart // *Stuart navigates the four critical seasons of relationships to help readers aim powerful desires toward divine purposes.*

Boundless.org // *Webzine that offers young adults encouragement to live abundantly as singles while seeking God’s best in either celibacy or marriage*

A Guy’s/Girl’s Guide to Marrying Well

Boundless.org has put together short, practical guides for singles to help them become proactive about whether, how and whom to marry. (Available as a free download at www.boundless.org/guys or boundless.org/girls)

Going Further Prestonwood Support

Prestonwood Single Adult Ministries

Prestonwood offers a variety of LifeGroup Bible Studies and other opportunities for non-married adults. Consult the LifeGroup Locator Guide available at Guest Central to find a LifeGroup Class that fits your schedule and family life stage. For details regarding the Singles Ministry, go to prestonwood.org/singles or prestonwood.org/youngsingles.

For additional resources, scan code:



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