

Series: God's Design

SINGLENES AND BIBLICAL COMMUNITY

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I. SINGLENES

A. Our Supreme Identity

B. The Gift of Singleness

1 Corinthians 7:7-8: *I wish that all were as I myself am. But each has his own gift from God, one of one kind and one of another. To the unmarried and the widows I say that it is good for them to remain single as I am.*

C. The Challenge of Singleness

Genesis 2:18a: *It is not good that man is alone.*

II. BIBLICAL COMMUNITY

A. The Need for Community

B. The Beauty of Community

C. The Mission of Community

III. Q&A from God's Design Series

For Further Study

1. While the Bible clearly points to God's design for marriage, the Bible also has much to say about singleness. The apostle Paul was single and celebrated the advantages he experienced as a single man in **1 Corinthians 7:7-8 and 7:32-35**. Jesus also never married, and he recognized those who choose not to marry for the sake of the kingdom of heaven (Matthew 19:12). God also spoke through the prophet Isaiah of special rewards for those who are not married, who bore no children, and who were pleasing to Him in **Isaiah 56:1-7**.
2. While Jesus held a very high view of marriage, He spoke even more highly of relationships we can have with Him and with others who believe in Him. Look at these passages for examples: **Matthew 22:23-30, Luke 11:27, Mark 10:29-30, Matthew 12:48-49, John 17:3**.
3. The implications of **1 Corinthians 12:12-26** are vast. Everyone is different—we all have different gifts, personalities, life experiences, and yet are one body. This passage exposes our need for community and our need for diverse community. In **Hebrews 10:23-25**, notice the “us” throughout this passage. The writer of Hebrews is speaking to the community of faith and the role everybody plays to “one another.” This passage challenges us to consider how to encourage one another to live in light of the gospel, v.24, and to sacrifice for biblical community, v.25.

Resources

The Bible and Homosexuality:

- [Out of a Far Country](#)—Christopher Yuan
- [The Secret Thoughts of an Unlikely Convert](#)—Rosaria Butterfield
- [Is God Anti-Gay?](#)—Sam Alberry
- [Messy Grace](#)—Caleb Kautlenbach

Marriage:

- [The Meaning of Marriage](#)—Tim and Kathy Keller
- [What Did You Expect](#)—Paul David Tripp
- [You and Me Forever](#)—Francis and Lisa Chan

Biblical Community:

- [Community](#)—Brad House

Singleness:

- 4 sessions from the 2012 Marriage, Sex and Singleness Conference with Tim and Kathy Keller—mp3s available at <http://www.gospelinlife.com/marriage-sex-singleness-conference-with-tim-and-kathy-keller>

To Discuss: With our families, friends, community groups

It is a great discipline to not only study God's Word on our own, but to study God's word in community with others—where we can be helped and encouraged not only to study the Bible but also to put it into practice—to obey the Bible!!

1. What was a major takeaway for you in our discussion on singleness?
2. As a single person, what are some ways we can maximize our singleness to serve Jesus and others? As married couples, what are some ways we can serve/encourage single people in our lives?
3. What was a major takeaway from our discussion on Biblical community?
4. We mentioned today that there is a mission to community—to one another, and to those who don't know Jesus. How are we doing at each of these?