

What does contentment look like for a single Christian?

Look to Christ who strengthens you!

- You are not dependent upon conditions (Phil 4:10-12)
- Serve others (Mark 10:43-45; James 4:1-6).
- Build redemptive relationships (Eph 4:11-16).
- Find wisdom to balance time, money, and work (Eccel 3:1-15).
- Trust that the Father's plan is best and the situations and places you're in have a good purpose behind them (Rom 8:28).
- Have patience, as you continue to wait on God (Heb 6:12).
- Live in light of the Father's will being done (Matt 6:11).
- You have a loving heavenly Father who is concerned for you (Matt 7:11; 10:30).
- God uses circumstances and conditions to make us more and more like Jesus (James 1:2-4)
- What matters most in this life is your relationship with Him (Phil 3:8).
- This life will pass, and nothing can rob you of the joy and hope that ultimately await you in Christ (Rom 8:35-39; Pet 1:6-7).

Idolatry, Loneliness & Contentment (Week 4)

Introduction

- (1) What is most central in your life? God's Word or Your Idols?
- (2) How do you fight the idols of the single life?
- (3) As a single, do you struggle with loneliness and if so, what can you do about it?
- (4) How do you find contentment in the single life?

God's Word and Your Idols

- Genesis 1 – God's Word is the most powerful force in the universe.
- Center your life on God's Word.
- "They exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen" (Romans 1:25).
- Idols = God-replacements – anything in our lives that becomes more important than God (Exodus 20:3).
- What are the idols of the single life? *Independence, time & money, your job, sex, travel & adventure, children, marriage, and yourself.*

Next Week: Singleness Panel (Week 5)

The Idolatry of Marriage

(1) Recognize the lies that turn a good thing into an idol.

(2) Distinguish between a good and godly desire and a self-centered demand.

(3) Don't revolve your life around what is uncertain and unguaranteed, but what is certain and sure.

Loneliness

The lies about loneliness in the single life:

- There must be something wrong with me if I am still alone
- God is far away or must not care for me if he has left me alone
- No one understands how I feel nor cares to understand OR Nobody else seems to feel alone
- I will always be alone
- Because I can't help feeling lonely, I'm not responsible for it; therefore, I get to complain about it
- If I had a husband or a wife then I wouldn't feel alone, because I have someone share my life and burdens
- Being alone is always a bad thing

How does God speak to us about our loneliness?

- *"It is the LORD who goes before you. He will be with you; he will not leave you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed" (Deut 31:8).*
- *"Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand" (Isa 41:10).*
- *"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble" (Ps 46:1).*
- *"I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you." John 14:18*
- *"Keep your life free from the love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, 'I will never leave you nor forsake you'" (Heb 13:5).*
- *"Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God" (Rev 21:3).*

Contentment (Philippians 4:10-20)

What contentment is....and what it is NOT.