

January 8/9, 2022

Relatable: Exploring God's good design for relationships
"Singleness"

The SCRIPTURE: 1 Corinthians 7:25-35

The BIG IDEA: Jesus satisfies the restless.

The Challenge:

In a romance fascinated culture, where do singles find a place to be known and to belong? The New Testaments gives meaning and hope to singles. Will our church be a place where singles (those who are widowed, divorced and life-long single) can find love?

Pastor Chris' Prayer for this message:

We all would find ourselves in the larger story that Jesus brings us into and experience the satisfying presence of Jesus in our lives.

Icebreaker Question:

- What relationship in your life do you hope to be positively impacted through this series?

Questions for discussion:

1. The Simpler Life vs. 27-28

- How does our culture naturally exclude or marginalized those who are single? What narratives do singles believe about themselves because of this fascination with relationships and romance?
 - How does the church do this as well?
- How has marriage "complicated" your life? What opportunity does this give to those who are not married?

2. The Sufficient Life vs. 29-31

- Paul reminds the Corinthian church and us, about the times that we live in. By placing us in the larger narrative of an already but not yet reality, we are able to relativize our current circumstances. How do you interpret your current reality considering what is to come (a fulfilled Kingdom)?
- What restlessness or tension do you currently feel as you live in this time?
- Paul is saying that a single person can live a sufficient life right now considering the coming of Jesus. How does this happen?

3. A Life of Service vs. 32-35

- Paul encourages singles to not waste their singleness as they can have "undivided devotion" to the Lord. What does this look like?

Application:

1. What are your takeaways from this as a married person? How does this change your perspective about marriage, relationships, and singleness?
2. What are your takeaways as a parent? How does this challenge your view and hopes for your kids?
3. What are your takeaways from this as a person who attends our church? How can we have a place where those who are single can be welcomed and loved?
4. What are your takeaways from this as a person who is single? What is Jesus saying to you?
5. What are your takeaways from this as a Life Group? How can you embrace and bring dignity and love to those who are single in our church community?