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A Theology of the Family

No. 3 - Singleness

Selected Scriptures

Family

As family is foundational to all of human society, so *marriage* is foundational to family...

Marriage

is GOD'S... is for God's PURPOSES... is a COVENANT... is NORMAL... is POWERFUL... is WORK... is TEMPORARY...

Hebrews 13:4 Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous.

But, what if I'm single?

No. 3 – Singleness

Selected Scriptures

The Bible's four major plot points direct our thinking about singleness...

• CREATION

^{ESV} **Genesis 2:18** Then the LORD God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him."

• FALL

^{ESV} **Genesis 3:16** To the woman he said, "I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children. Your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you." ¹⁷ And to Adam he said, "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, 'You shall not eat of it,' cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life; ¹⁸ thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. ¹⁹ By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

See also, Romans 5:12

• REDEMPTION

^{ESV} **Matthew 19:10** The disciples said to him, "If such is the case of a man with his wife, it is better not to marry." ¹¹ But he said to them, "Not everyone can receive this saying, but only those to whom it is given. ¹² For there are eunuchs who have been so from birth, and there are eunuchs who have been made eunuchs by men, and there are eunuchs who have made themselves eunuchs for the sake of the kingdom of heaven. Let the one who is able to receive this receive it."

^{ESV} **1 Corinthians 7:7** 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. ⁸ To the unmarried and the widows I say that it is good for them to remain single as I am. ⁹ But if they cannot exercise self-control, they should marry. For it is better to marry than to be aflame with passion.

...¹⁷ Only let each person lead the life that the Lord has assigned to him, and to which God has called him. This is my rule in all the churches.

...³² I want you to be free from anxieties. The unmarried man is anxious about the things of the Lord, how to please the Lord. ³³ But the married man is anxious about worldly things, how to please his wife, ³⁴ and his interests are divided. And the unmarried or betrothed woman is anxious about the things of the Lord, how to be holy in body and spirit. But the married woman is anxious about worldly things, how to please her husband.

• FUTURE

^{ESV} **Luke 20:34** And Jesus said to them, "The sons of this age marry and are given in marriage, ³⁵ but those who are considered worthy to attain to that age and to the resurrection from the dead neither marry nor are given in marriage, ³⁶ for they cannot die anymore, because they are equal to angels and are sons of God, being sons of the resurrection.

^{ESV} **Isaiah 56:3** Let not the foreigner who has joined himself to the LORD say, "The LORD will surely separate me from his people"; and let not the eunuch say, "Behold, I am a dry tree." ⁴ For thus says the LORD: "To the eunuchs who keep my Sabbaths, who choose the things that please me and hold fast my covenant, ⁵ I will give in my house and within my walls a monument and a name better than sons and daughters; I will give them an everlasting name that shall not be cut off.

Whether you are presently married or single...

- View yourself and each other as you both are in Christ—brothers and sisters.
- Support each other in faithfully living out your own present assignments:
 - Boast in the eternal truths of your realities (e.g. James 1:9-10)
 - Genuinely welcome and serve each other (e.g. Romans 14:3)
 - Recognize and respect your differing concerns (e.g. 1 Corinthians 7:32-33)
 - Cultivate the virtuous life no matter what (e.g. 1 Timothy 5:9-11)
- Both live as if what counts for anything is obeying God.
- Consider wisely the opportunities God may afford to you.