



"And such were some of you..."

Marriage and Singleness

As Christians, our identity, value, and worth are determined by Christ, not our marital status (2 Corinthians 5:17, John 1:12, John 15:9-16). In Christ we find purpose, meaning, and direction for our lives. Whether we are single or married our significance rests not in our earthly circumstances, but in the grace and love of our Savior. In Christ, we are all equal (Galatians 3:26-28, Romans 2:11).

The Gifts of Marriage and Singleness: Reflecting Divine Intent

God's intricate design for marriage and singleness transcends mere existence; it is rooted in the reflection of His image. The essence of this divine plan is manifested in our relationships, whether through the covenant of marriage or the gift of singleness. Genesis 1:26-27 declares that God created us to mirror His image. We are created for relationships, first vertically with God and then horizontally with one another. Within this framework, these intimate relationships flourish (Genesis 1:27–31; 2:25, I John 4:7-8).

The Gift of Singleness

Singleness is a divine gift whether for an interim period or a lifetime. Scripture reassures that singleness does not diminish one's worth or identity in Christ. The calling to singleness allows individuals an undivided devotion to God and dedicated service for His purposes (Matthew 19:10-12; 1 Corinthians 7:32-35). Singleness signifies that God alone suffices and that devotion to Jesus is paramount.

Singleness does not negate the desire for human connections. It emphasizes contentment in Christ while investing in healthy, nonsexual fellowship with others. Both marriage and singleness are avenues through which believers can testify to the gospel: marriage mirrors covenant promises, while singleness underscores the gospel's sufficiency. Whether single or married, believers are empowered by grace to live rich in relational intimacy with God and others (James 4:8, I Peter 4:8-11, John 13:34, I Thessalonians 3:12).

Christianity affirms the blessing and goodness of the single life. Our Lord Jesus and the Apostle Paul exemplified singleness, acknowledging the virtues of marriage while embracing their calling and revolutionizing the attitude in the early church of the single life, including widows (1 Corinthians 7:7-8, I Corinthians 7:25-35).

Every “gift” is for the purpose of building up and serving others (1 Peter 4:10,11) and the “gift of singleness” is no different. The single life is to bring glory to God!

The Gift of Marriage

Marriage stands as another divine gift. The Bible teaches that marriage is a mystery established by God for his glory. Marriage is a profound and incredible relationship that is to reflect Christ and the Church (Ephesians 5:31-32).

Companionship, sexual intimacy, and procreation are a few joys of marriage (Genesis 1:28, 2:24, Genesis 2:18, book of Song of Solomon). This covenant union between a biological man and a biological woman signifies a lifelong, exclusive, holy covenant before God (Mark 10:4-9, Hebrews 13:4).

In its profound depth, marriage mirrors the unparalleled relationship between God and His people. Husbands are to love, care, and lay their lives down for their wives as Jesus loves the church and died for it. Wives are to love, submit, and respect their husbands as the church loves, submits, and honors Jesus the bridegroom (Ephesians 5:21–33; Colossians 3:18-19). The married life is ultimately to bring glory to God!

While earthly marriage holds significance, it will cease in the new heaven and new earth, culminating in perfect communion with God (Matthew 22:30; Revelation 21:1–4). This eternal perspective underscores that both singleness and marriage, though distinct callings, share the overarching aim of pointing to Christ's eternal union with His Church.

Conclusion

Whether called to marriage or singleness, every believer's identity remains anchored in Christ. Both states are divine gifts, each revealing distinct facets of God's character and eternal plan. Our primary focus as believers should be on honoring Christ in whichever season He places us, recognizing that our ultimate satisfaction and identity rest solely in Him.