



CITIZENS

CHURCH

FORMATION CLASS

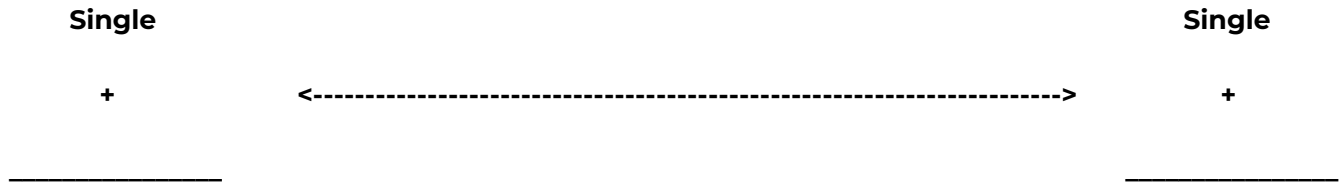
SINGLENESS & DATING

Student Handout

WEEK 1 - SINGLENESS

INTRODUCTION

Two typical postures towards singleness:



Common Misconceptions in the Church:

1. Singleness makes you a _____ in the family of God.
2. Singleness is _____.
3. Singleness requires a _____.
4. Singleness is a _____ of your _____.

PART 1 - SCRIPTURE

Marriage in The Garden of Eden

Genesis 2:23-25

Then the man said, "This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man." Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.

Marriage in the Old Testament

Hosea 1:2

When the Lord first spoke through Hosea, the Lord said to Hosea, "Go, take to yourself a wife of whoredom and have children of whoredom, for the land commits great whoredom by forsaking the Lord."

Hosea 2:13

And I will punish her for the feast days of the Baals when she burned offerings to them and adorned herself with her ring and jewelry, and went after her lovers and forgot me, declares the Lord.

Hosea 2:16-20, 23

"And in that day, declares the Lord, you will call me "My Husband," and no longer will you call me "My Baal".... I will abolish the bow, the sword, and war from the land, and I will make you lie down in safety. And I will betroth you to me forever. I will betroth you to me in righteousness and in justice, in steadfast love and in mercy. I will betroth you to me in faithfulness. And you shall know the Lord.... And I will have mercy on No Mercy, and I will say to Not My People, You are my people; and he shall say You are my God."

Marriage in the New Testament

John 3:28-29

You yourselves bear me witness, that I said, 'I am not the Christ, but I have been sent before him.' The one who has the bride is the bridegroom. The friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly at the bridegroom's voice.

Marriage in the New Creation

Revelation 19:6-9

Then I heard what seemed to be the voice of a great multitude, like the roar of many waters and like the sound of mighty peals of thunder, crying out, "Hallelujah! For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns. Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his Bride has made herself ready; it was granted her to clothe herself with fine linen, bright and pure"—for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints. And the angel said to me, "Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb."

Summary:

- Marriage in the Garden –
- Marriage in the Old Testament –
- Marriage in the New Testament –
- Marriage in the New Creation –

Singleness in The Garden of Eden

Singleness in the Old Testament

Jeremiah 16:1-4

The word of the Lord came to me: "You shall not take a wife, nor shall you have sons or daughters in this place. For thus says the Lord concerning the sons and daughters who are born in this place, and concerning the mothers who bore them and the fathers who fathered them in this land: They shall die of deadly diseases. They shall not be lamented, nor shall they be buried. They shall be as dung on the surface of the ground. They shall perish by the sword and by famine, and their dead bodies shall be food for the birds of the air and for the beasts of the earth."

Singleness in the New Testament

Matthew 22:30

“For in the resurrection, they neither marry nor are given in marriage but are like angels in heaven.”

1 Corinthians 7:6-8

Now as a concession, not a command, I say this. 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.

1 Corinthians 7:32-35

I want you to be free from anxieties. The unmarried man is anxious about the things of the Lord, how to please the Lord. But the married man is anxious about worldly things, how to please his wife, 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. I say this for your own benefit, not to lay any restraint upon you, but to promote good order and to secure your undivided devotion to the Lord.

Singleness in the New Creation

Summary:

- Singleness in the Garden –
- Singleness in the Old Testament –
- Singleness in the New Testament –
- Singleness in the New Creation –

PART 2 - REVISITING THE MISCONCEPTIONS

1. Singleness does not make you a second class citizen in the Kingdom of God, you

_____ the _____ of _____.

2. Singleness isn't bad, it's where we're all _____.

3. Singleness doesn't require a supernatural gifting, it _____ the _____ .

4. Singleness isn't a waste of your sexuality, it _____ to the _____.

PART 3 - APPLICATION AND ENCOURAGEMENTS

Poor Stewardship of Singleness:

If you're struggling...

1. Keeps you from sharing in the _____ of others.
2. Doubts the _____ of the Lord.
3. _____ to receive _____ and _____ from others.

If you're contentment...

1. Stems from _____ / _____.
2. Is born out of _____ _____ _____.

Godly Stewardship of Singleness:

1. Focuses on _____ _____ _____.
2. Let's the church _____ be your _____.
3. Cultivates a spirit of _____, not _____.

Exhortations for Married People:

1. Don't treat your single friends as a _____ to fix.
2. Allow single people to _____ into your _____ and _____ .
3. Invite single people into _____ often held _____ .

WEEK 2 - DATING

INTRODUCTION

Proverbs 5:21-23

For a man's ways are before the eyes of the LORD, and he ponders all his paths. The iniquities of the wicked ensnare him, and he is held fast in the cords of his sin. He dies for lack of discipline, and because of his great folly he is led astray.

PART 1 – YOU

BIG PRINCIPLE:

INSTEAD OF ASKING : DO I WANT TO DATE THEM? ASK – “SHOULD THEY WANT TO DATE ME?”

Three Diagnostic Questions:

1. Am I _____ more like _____ ?

Romans 8:29

29 For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.

1 Thessalonians 4:3

3 For this is the will of God, your sanctification.

2. Has my _____ become a _____ ?

Jeremiah 2:12-13

Be appalled, O heavens, at this; be shocked, be utterly desolate, declares the LORD, for my people have committed two evils: they have forsaken me, the fountain of living waters, and hewed out cisterns for themselves, broken cisterns that can hold no water.

3. Does my _____ think I'm ready to date?

Proverbs 12:15

The way of a fool seems right to him, but a wise man listens to advice.

PART 2 – THEM

BIG PRINCIPLE:

THE OTHER PERSON NEEDS TO BE A CHRISTIAN IN LOVE WITH JESUS.

2 Corinthians 6:14-18

Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers. For what partnership has righteousness with lawlessness? Or what fellowship has light with darkness? What accord has Christ with Belial? Or what portion does a believer share with an unbeliever? What agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; as God said, "I will make my dwelling among them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Therefore go out from their midst, and be separate from them, says the Lord, and touch no unclean thing; then I will welcome you. and I will be a father to you, and you shall be sons and daughters to me, says the Lord Almighty."

A Yoke:

1.

2.

Key:

You cannot _____ your life with someone who isn't _____
_____ and still go after him yourself.

Typical Justifications for Dating a Non-Christian:

1. But I really _____ them.
2. But they _____ me in my faith.
3. But I need to help them become a _____ .

Why this matters for women:

Ephesians 5:22-24

Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands.

If you cannot trust his _____ with _____, how can you trust him to _____ you?

Why this matters for men:

Ephesians 5:25-28

Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself.

If you cannot trust her _____ with _____, how can you trust her to _____ you?

Questions to ask of a potential date:

1. Do they have any _____?
2. Are any of their friends _____?
3. What is their _____?
4. Are they an _____ of a _____?
5. Do they _____ without _____?
6. How do they _____ of the _____ they are not _____?
7. What do your friends who love _____ and love _____ think about them?

PART 3 - THE PURSUIT

BIG PRINCIPLE:

IN PURSUING, YOU THINK ABOUT THEM, NOT YOU.

Two Big Keys for Pursuing and Dating:

Philippians 2:3-4

Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.

1. _____ them above yourself.

1 Timothy 5:1-2

Do not rebuke an older man but encourage him as you would a father, younger men as brothers, older women as mothers, younger women as sisters, in all purity.

2. Treat them as they are – your _____ in Christ.

To Pursue or Not to Pursue:

1. Talk to _____ .

Proverbs 12:15

The way of a fool seems right to him, but a wise man listens to advice.

2. Talk to _____ .

Proverbs 20:18

Make plans by seeking advice; if you wage war, obtain guidance.

Proverbs 15:22

Plans fail for lack of counsel, but with many advisers they succeed.

Proverbs 19:20

Listen to advice and accept instruction, and in the end you will be wise.

3. Be _____ .

Psalm 37:7

Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for him. Do not fret when men succeed in their ways, when they carry out their wicked schemes.

How to Pursue:

1. _____ clearly.

Proverbs 24:26

An honest answer is like a kiss on the lips.

2. Keep talking to _____ and _____ .

PART 4 - DATING

BIG PRINCIPLE:

*CHRISTIANS SHOULD DATE AS THOUGH
THEY WANT TO MAKE IT EASY TO BREAK UP IF GOD SAYS TO.*

Dating with an open hand:

1. Take it _____ .
2. Watch your _____ and your _____ .
3. Be _____, not _____ .
4. Have _____ .

5. _____ and _____ appropriate _____ .

Song of Solomon 8:4

Daughters of Jerusalem, I charge you: Do not arouse or awaken love until it so desires.

Sexual Intimacy:



Mark 7:20-23

He went on: "What comes out of a man is what makes him unclean. For from within, out of men's hearts, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, greed, malice, deceit, lewdness, envy, slander, arrogance, and folly. All these evils come from inside and make a man unclean."

- If you want to _____, you _____ .

1 Corinthians 6:18

Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a man commits are outside his body, but he who sins sexually sins against his own body.

- We need to _____ instead of _____ with _____
_____.

Matthew 5:28-30:

But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye causes you to sin, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to go into hell.

- So do _____ it takes to love _____ and hate _____.

Micah 7:9,18

Because I have sinned against him, I will bear the Lord's wrath, until he pleads my case and establishes my right. He will bring me out into the light; I will see his righteousness. Who is a God like you, who pardons sin and forgives the transgression of the remnant of his inheritance? You do not stay angry forever but delight to show mercy.

Options for physical boundaries:

5 Reasons NOT to Live Together:

1. Biblical –
2. Practical –
3. Missional –
4. Covenantal –
5. Selfishness –

PART 5 - THE END

BIG PRINCIPLE:

THE PURPOSE OF DATING IS TO STOP DATING.

Two Options on how dating ends:

- 1.
- 2.

Godly Break Ups:

1. _____ - _____ .
2. _____ clearly.
3. Full of _____ .
4. _____ – After breaking up, be _____ .

Godly Proposals:

1. _____ it through and do it _____ .
2. Be engaged for as _____ as possible.

RESOURCES:

- *7 Myths about Singleness* - Sam Allberry
- *Why does God care who I sleep with?* - Sam Allberry
- *Get Married* - Candice Watters
- *The Meaning of Marriage* - Tim Keller
- *When the Church was a Family* - Joseph Hellerman