

SINGLE ALLIANCE

Common Mistakes Singles Make and How to Avoid Them "The Myths of Marriage"

I. Introduction

- A. We are starting a new series called, "Common mistakes singles make and how to avoid them."
- B. The first common mistake is believing the myths of marriage
- C. A myth is a common belief that is actually not true or completely true.
- D. Humor: There were three guys out fishing and one started bragging on how he ruled the house and how his wife submitted to him. The other one followed along bragging even more along these lines. They looked the third guy and said well how about you? Thinking real fast the third guy said, "Well, I had my wife crawling to me on her hands and feet the other night! They two stared with big eyes, "Really! What happened! He finished sheepishly by saying, "She told me to get out from under that bed and fight like a man!"
- E. It has been said many singles are sad, many married's are mad, but the ones who look to God are all glad.

II. Myth #1 of marriage

- A. Myth #1 of marriage is that God created marriage to make you happy.
- B. Many believe this because of a wrong interpretation of scripture.
 - 1. [**Gen. 2:18**]- It is not good for **THE** man to be alone. Many mis-read this verse to say, "It is not good for **a** man to be alone" This is speaking of a particular man Adam. Notice there is no verse that says it is not good for a woman to be alone?
 - 2. Many have taken this verse to mean that Adam was lonely.
 - 3. Many have taken this to mean that it is not good to be single because it is a state of loneliness. They equate single with loneliness! There are just as many lonely married people than single! Loneliness comes from the flesh and lack of connection with God and other people.
 - 4. Adam was not lonely. Loneliness is a by product of the fall. Adam fellowshiped with God in the garden.
 - 5. God said it was not good for **THE** man Adam to be alone- by himself! Adam had no human connections at all!

6. God knew man needed help! So he created a help mate for him to help him fulfill the will and call of God to rule over the earth and subdue it.

C. God has not saved you and redeemed you so you can be happy! The word happy is a human term! It comes from the word old English word "hap" which means circumstance. Happiness comes from favorable circumstances. You cannot be happy in unfavorable circumstances. It leaves with unfavorable circumstances. God has called us to **joy** and to **rejoice**. This comes from God and faith in God on the inside of us. It is not dictated by circumstances.

1. [**Phil. 4:1,4**]- Rejoice, again I say rejoice.

2. [**1 Thess 5:16**]- Rejoice **ALWAYS**- single or married!

D. Another myth that people hold is that the grass is always greener on the other side of the fence. What they do not realize that it has to be mowed, or it is astoturf- (not what it appears to be), or what it is fertilized with!

E. The scripture mentions only three reasons for marriage and happiness is not one of them.

1. For help fulfilling the calling of God- [**Gen. 2:20**]

2. To raise godly offspring- [**Malachi 2:15**]

3. To be a picture of the intimacy and union of the believer with God- [**Ephesians 5:31-32**]- I think this is the highest calling of marriage. To show as a physical example of the love between God and the church.

F. **Marriage is a type of union and intimacy with God, but a single person can actually partake of the reality of what marriage symbolizes!** They can have a deep union and intimacy with God!

1. [**1Co 7:34-Message**]- *leading to so many more demands on your attention. The time and energy that married people spend on caring for and nurturing each other, the unmarried can spend in becoming whole and holy instruments of God.*

[**1Co 7:35- Message**]- *I'm trying to be helpful and make it as easy as possible for you, not make things harder. All I want is for you to be able to develop a way of life in which you can spend plenty of time together with the Master without a lot of distractions.*

G. Many singles want to be married but lack the ability to be intimate with God. If they can't be intimate with God then they

can't be intimate with people. Without the ability to be emotionally intimate marriage is difficult to maintain.

II. Myth #2 of marriage- Marriage completes me!

A. There was a movie in which Tom Cruise exclaims- "You complete me!"

1. This is the belief of many single Christians- A mate will complete me.

2. They get this from the fact that God took a rib out of Adam and made Eve with it and until you find your wife you are incomplete because you are missing your rib.

3. Many have believed that men have one less rib than women- the medical fact is that men and women have the same number of ribs.

B. I find a lot of single guys on a quest to find their missing rib so they can be completed. If you want good ribs then try Famous Dave's Bar-b-Que! They have great ribs!

C. Another popular belief is that there is one true soul mate for you out there somewhere. The term soul mate is not in the Bible.

Marriage makes you one flesh. Communication, servant hood, humility, forgiveness, and love causes two souls to be united. Any two Christians committed to this can become soul mates. This soul mate idea is used many times to cover bad choices and poor relationship skills because when a relationship fails it is easy to say- Well they just were not my soul mate! **Soul mates are not found, they are made!**

D. [**Ephesians 2:10**]- What makes us complete is Christ not a human being! We are complete in Him! A good marriage comes when a healthy whole person marries another healthy whole person. This creates a marriage of servant hood and giving instead of taking.

E. God does use marriage to refine you but he will use anything and everything to refine you. He does it through having kids. He does it on your job. He does it through your family. He does it through friends. He does it through those who don't like you.

III. Abiding with God

A. The power of Christianity is that no matter what the circumstances a Christian is put in, they have inner resource of Christ within to flourish there.

B. [**Philippians 4:10-13**]- Through the ups and downs of life you will be filled with joy and power because of your relationship with Christ.

C. [**1 Cor. 7:18-20**]- In whatever place you are in abide there with God. That is the key to true contentment and inner joy- abiding with God being singles or being married.

D. Pray