

What does contentment look like for a single Christian?

Look to Christ who strengthens you!

- You are not dependent upon conditions (Phil 4:10-12)
- Serve others (Mark 10:43-45; James 4:1-6).
- Build redemptive relationships (Eph 4:11-16).
- Find wisdom to balance time, money, work (Eccel 3:1-15).
- Trust that the Father's plan is best and the situations in which you find yourself right now has purpose (Rom 8:28).
- Have patience, as you continue to wait on God (Heb 6:12).
- Live in light of the Father's will being done (Matt 6:11).
- You have a loving heavenly Father who is concerned for you (Matt 7:11; 10:30).
- God uses circumstances and conditions to make me more and more like Jesus (James 1:2-4)
- What matters most in this life is your relationship with Him (Phil 3:8).
- This life will pass, and nothing can rob you of the hope that will ultimately await you in Christ (Rom 8:35-39; Pet 1:6-7).

Next Week: Singleness Panel (Week 5)

Core Seminars—Singleness & Courtship
Class 4: Idolatry, Loneliness & Contentment



Introduction

- (1) What is most central in your life? God's Word or Your Idols?
- (2) How do you fight the idols of the single life?
- (3) As a single, do you struggle with loneliness and if so, what can you do about it?
- (4) How do I find contentment in the single life?

The Word & Your Idols

“They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshipped and served created things rather than the Creator—who is forever praised. Amen” (Romans 1:25).

What are the idols of the single life? *Independence, time & money, your job, sex, travel & adventure, children, marriage, and me.*

The Idolatry of Marriage

(1) Recognize the lies that turn a good thing into an idol.

(2) Distinguish between a good and godly desire and a self-centered demand.

(3) Don't revolve your life around what is uncertain and not guaranteed, but what is certain and sure.

Loneliness

The lies about loneliness in the single life:

- There must be something wrong with me if I am still alone
 - God must not care for me if he has left me alone OR God is far away
 - No one understands how I feel nor cares to understand OR Nobody else seems to feel alone
 - I will always be alone
 - Because I can't help feeling lonely, I'm not responsible for it; therefore, I get to complain about it
 - If I had a husband or a wife then I wouldn't feel alone, because I have someone share my life and burdens
 - Being alone is always a bad thing
- How does God speak to us about our loneliness?

- *"The LORD himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged" (Deut 31:8).*
- *"Fear not for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold your with my righteous hand" (41:10).*
- *"God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble" (Ps 46:1).*
- *"I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you." John 14:18*
- *"Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, 'Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.' " (Heb 13:5).*
- *"Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God" (Rev 21:5).*

Contentment (Philippians 4:10-20)

How might we describe contentment in the single life?

- Contentment is *not* doing what I can to just *barely* get by as a Christian.
- Contentment is *not* building my whole life around me. Contentment is *not* having plenty or having all of your needs met.
- Contentment is *not* marriage.
- Contentment is *not* fighting your way through life on your own.