

# THE INSIDE RUNNING

Most people desire to be in a good marriage, enjoying the companionship of their spouse - someone they can be great friends with as they grow old together.

Shifts in our culture are making this more difficult to achieve. It's becoming harder to get married and to stay married.

Real strength comes through knowing God is with you in all circumstances, and through being emotionally and spiritually healthy in oneself. Then it is easier to reach out to others in humility, respect and kindness.

We all know great people who seem to be stuck on single when they would rather not be. It is especially challenging for never married people in the Church, where the focus is on families. For those of us who are married, the 36 clichés over the page are a wake-up call to truly be sensitive to others and genuinely empathetic.

Promise Keepers' mission is to help all men grow spiritually and live out an authentic manhood, whether married or single.

It would be great if the only people who were single were single by choice. Be kind out there.

With gratitude



John Subritzky



# Growing Through Singleness

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by Jim Hurn

To be single is not unusual, unfortunate, unnatural, or undesirable. Neither is singleness a deadly disease cured only by marriage.

In fact in the next few paragraphs of this article I want to convey to you how it's possible to be single, sanctified, satisfied, stable and definitely not surplus!!

So, how do we find ourselves viewing this singleness situation? Listed below are the main reasons for living as a single...

- **Suddenly single** - through death, divorce, separation or abandonment
- **Single by choice** - our busy career, comfortable with our own lifestyle
- **Single by circumstances** - a consequence of belief, or compatibility issues

A good starting place on this subject is some scripture from the book of Genesis. In Genesis 1:26-27 God's Word declares He created us as individuals, both "male and female".

We can take from this that singleness is the most natural state for men and women, and that state is primarily and initially for us to have intimate fellowship with our Creator God.

Then in Genesis 2:18 The Lord God said, "*It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him.*"

Notice God did not say, "It is not good for the man to be single (so I will marry him off)".

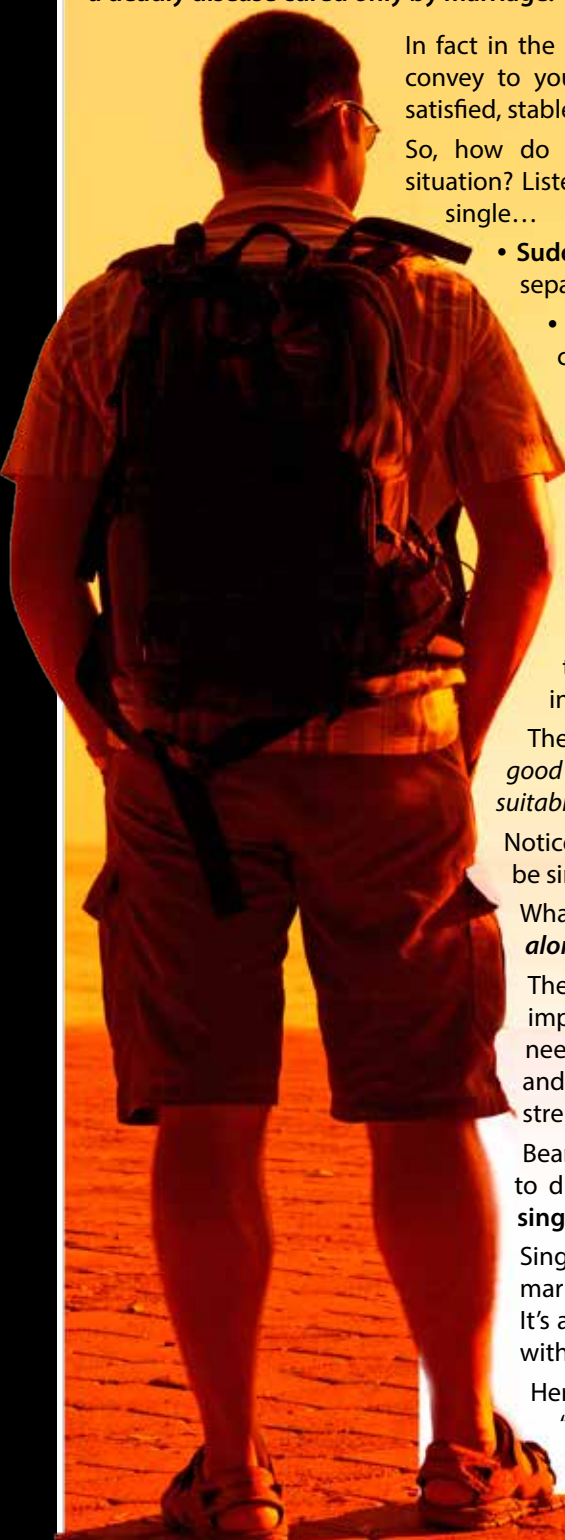
What He did say is, "*It is not good for the man to be alone.*"

The key thought here is loneliness and the importance of companionship. God knows we need fellowship, company, friendship, associates and relationships with others so that we may draw strength and encouragement from each other.

Bearing all the above in mind it's important for us to differentiate between being alone and being single.

Single people can form friendships outside of a marriage relationship, and therefore not be alone. It's also possible to find the companions we need without having to go along the marriage route.

Here's the question to now ask ourselves - "Is it possible that I may know fulfilment, stability, love, completeness, support and >





➤ encouragement and remain single?" The answer has to be "yes".

The Bible as God's Word states in Colossians

2:8-10 *"Don't let anyone lead you astray with empty philosophy and high-sounding nonsense that come from human thinking and from the evil powers of this world, and not from Christ. For in Christ the fullness of God lives in a human body, and you are complete through your union with Christ..."*

Through an active faith in Christ, completeness and contentment in singleness can be found and this of course applies to the widower, or divorcee as well.

Even if you were to become married, you would still need to recognise that while a marriage partner may complement you, they can never bring completeness, as only a relationship with Christ as Saviour makes this possible.

### Did Jesus approve and proclaim singleness?

Jesus was discussing relationship issues with His disciples and had this question put to Him, "Is it better not to marry?" His reply was that not everyone could accept that statement, only those who God helped. Then He added, *"Let anyone who can accept my statement"*. (Matthew 19:11-12.)

### Did Paul address and support singleness?

Speaking to believers in Corinth, Paul said *"I wish everyone could get along without marrying, just as I do. But we are not all the same. God gives some the gift of marriage, and to others he gives the gift of singleness"*. (1 Corinthians 7:7 NLT)

Scripture teaches that marriage itself is not the highest goal in life. Singleness is a choice we make according to circumstances

presently before us.

### So, how do we live confidently if this is our present situation?

Sex is a question we have to come to grips with. While there is not enough room here to address that issue, there is an answer, but it might not be what we want to hear. If our life has great input from God by His Spirit, then our need for any sexual outlet lessens.

I conclude this article with the Single's ABC:

#### A) Avoid the "when I get married" syndrome

Make your own plans as a single – job, lifestyle, travel, accommodation, new car. Don't adopt a "holding pattern". Singleness may not be a permanent calling for you, but it needs to be accepted as a present reality. This frees us to be the people God made us to be.

#### B) Beware of society dictating to you on the negatives of marriage – such as, Marriage is not working; There is a big divorce rate; Become a 'swinging single'; do a little flirting, loosen up; You're too picky, too choosy; Shop around!

#### C) Confidently live in your present situation as a single person

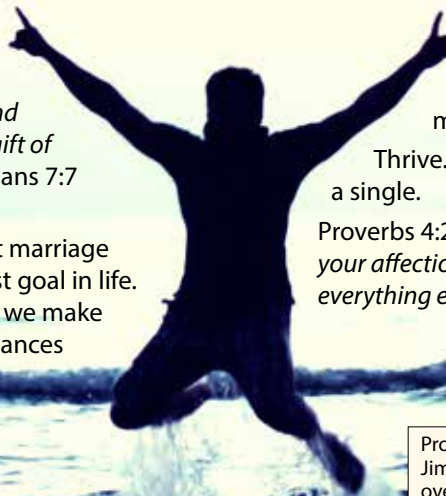
Take full advantage of the positives - all the time and freedom to seek God's best in planning your life's pathway. Keep in mind that partnership with someone later will always be enriched if we give God total ownership of ourselves now.

The only thing worse than waiting for a wife is wishing we had spent more time waiting.

Thrive... don't merely survive as a single.

Proverbs 4:23 *"Above all else guard your affections because they influence everything else in your life."*

**It's important for us to differentiate between being alone and being single.**



Promise Keepers appreciates Jim's outstanding contribution over many years. Jim is currently facing health issues.

## 36 Ridiculous Clichés Singles Are Sick of Hearing

- 1. You're going to meet someone when you least expect it!
- 2. How are you still single? You're such a catch.
- 3. Your time will come.
- 4. Have you tried online dating?
- 5. "Couples only."
- 6. You don't mind being third wheel, right?
- 7. You're too young to worry about meeting "the one".
- 8. You should totally try to find a date!
- 9. Valentine's Day isn't that great anyway.
- 10. What's a fine young guy like you doing at this restaurant alone?
- 11. Are you bringing a plus one?
- 12. We want grandbabies!
- 13. I gave her your number. I hope you don't mind.
- 14. If you don't have any plans this Friday night, can you babysit?
- 15. My wife and I have been praying for years that our daughter would marry a guy just like you!
- 16. Maybe if you just worked out more someone would notice you.
- 17. But you're so nice! How are you still single?
- 18. You just need to get yourself out there.
- 19. If I was a girl, I would totally date you!
- 20. It's all in God's timing, so just be patient.
- 21. "Delight yourself in the Lord and He shall give you the desires of thy heart."
- 22. I have a really nice brother you could go out with.
- 23. Stop being so picky!
- 24. Don't just settle for anyone!
- 25. It's all about you right now. Enjoy it!
- 26. Are you even ready to get married?
- 27. Embrace being single. Once you get married there's no going back.
- 28. There's someone for everyone.
- 29. You've just got to love yourself first.
- 30. You know, it's always the person that you least expect.
- 31. Maybe it's because they're intimidated by you.
- 32. Just play the field!
- 33. There's plenty of fish in the sea!
- 34. My friend didn't get married till he was 50, so you still have time.
- 35. Oh, we'll find you a girlfriend!
- 36. God is preparing the perfect woman for you right now!

From covenanteyes.com

**PROMISE #2**

A Promise Keeper is committed to pursuing vital relationships with a few other men, understanding that he needs brothers to help him keep his promises.

**Next Issue: MARRIAGE & FAMILY**