

God's Good Plan for... Singleness

Intro: Singleness is an issue concerning everyone:

- *People in various situations; at various times of life;*
- *Members of our Church body (remember 1 Cor 12:12-27?)*

Today's big point: in Jesus' kingdom, singleness is a good gift
(1 Cor 7:7, 17-40)

1. Sometimes singleness doesn't feel like a good gift:

- a) ...for unmarried Christians feeling isolated in our culture

- b) ...for unmarried Christians feeling confused reading the Bible
 - when Gen 1-2 says 'be fruitful and multiply' and 'it's not good for man to be alone'
 - when Deut 28:1-4, Psalm 127:3-5, etc. describe children as God's blessing
 - when Gen 2, Matt 19, Rom 1, 1 Cor 6 say sex is only for marriage between one man & woman
 - when marrying non-believers is ruled out (1 Cor 7:39, 2 Cor 6:14-18)

2. But Jesus says: some Christians will *choose* to remain single

Matt 19:10-12

- "Eunuchs" = single, celibate servants of his kingdom
- Some from birth; some through circumstance; and some by choice!
- Why?? Remember our mandate now: Matt 28:18-20
- "Eunuchs" – both a painful *and* privileged (Isaiah 56:3-5) metaphor

So should I get married or not if I have the option?

3. Paul confirms: we're free to marry but singleness has real benefits

1 Cor 7:17-40

a) Marital status doesn't define Christians

(any more than race/job status)

17-24

➔ So focus on contented obedience, not changing circumstances (19-20)

b) Eternity's imminent arrival does define Christians 25-31

➔ And marriage brings inevitable this-world anxieties and distraction

32-35

➔ So while marrying is no sin (& may be wise), singleness has real benefits!

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Qs to discuss:

- How can we better support unmarried brothers and sisters in Christ's body here at Chalmers?
- How can we make the most of the gifts and service opportunities those unmarried have?

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