

## **The Bible on Singleness**

### **Australian Views of Singleness**

What does our world think of singleness?

How do single people generally get treated?

### **Our Church and Singleness**

How do we treat single people at 630 Church?

What do we do or say that is helpful?

What do we do or say that is unhelpful?

## **The Bible on Singleness**

Singleness and the Kingdom – Matthew 19:10-12

What does Jesus teach regarding singleness in light of the future?

Singleness in the Last Days – 1 Corinthians 7:26-35

What are the benefits of singleness?

Is it wrong for a person to marry?

**Struggling with Singleness**

Worship the Creator, not Creation

*Romans 1:21-25*

How can the desire for marriage become idolatry?

How do we recognise this idolatry? How do we deal with it?

Be content in every situation

*Philippians 4:11-13*

What struggles is Paul facing?

What does Paul mean by being content?

Living as a single

What are the struggles with being single?

As a single/married what can we do to care for ourselves and each other?

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**Sexual Purity – 1 Thessalonians 4:3-8**

*Note: This passage applies to marrieds as much as to singles.*

What are some of the challenges in maintaining sexual purity?

How can single people maintain sexual purity in all their relationships?

Is there anything we can do as a church that might help in this area?

What specific things could the people of the other gender at 630 Church change or do to help you in this area?

*We will write a list to give to them tonight so we know how to help each other.*

## **Some conclusions on Singleness**

*Read through and discuss these points*

1. God calls people to one of two states: singleness or marriage.
2. The single life is a chaste life.
3. The single person may always freely consent to marry.
4. Singleness is of equal honour to, but of a different shape than, marriage.
5. Singleness is good because it allows extra focus upon Jesus' purpose in the world.
6. Singleness is good when characterized by a wide network of sexually pure friendships that are focused on service.
7. Singleness declines something good (the 'oneness' and sexual expression of marriage), so we should expect it to have times of sadness.
8. God calls the single person (with all people) to 'honour marriage' (Hebrews 13:4).
9. Marriage should not become an idol.
10. Any additional points?

## **Thinking it Through**

### ***Married People:***

In what way do I need to change my thinking about being single?

Is there any behaviour that I need to change as a result of this study?

### ***Single People:***

Is there anything in my thinking, attitudes or behaviour that suggests that singleness is an inferior vocation to marriage?

How can I better care for those who are single at church?