

## **This is Us: Singleness**

**Discover:** Why is this topic important?

As a single person, I know the feeling of “checking out” during a sermon on marriage. “Does this really apply to me? I don’t need to know this yet. Heck, I could’ve stayed home today.” I’d be lying if I said this thought has never crossed my mind when I know a sermon or series is on marriage.

So, sure, maybe the sermon on marriage is not something that we as singles can directly relate to. However, this is still an opportunity we can take advantage of. We can use this time to view our own situation in a different way. A sermon on marriage often deals with how two people approach the most important human relationship they have in their life. While specific messages may vary, the core idea of a marriage sermon is seeking a healthy relationship. At the same time, for many singles, this is a relationship we hope to have one day. But for now, we have other relationships that are our priorities.

Let us take the time to focus on those for now. How can we be in better relationship with our friends, family, fellow group members, and yes, even our significant others and possible future spouses? Because if we do not know how to pursue healthy relationships now, we will never be fully prepared to have a healthy marriage.

**Develop:** Important passage(s) w/Personal Reflection

Thinking about marriage, there are biblical principles that we can apply to our lives now that will affect our future marriage. Also, these principles are meant to be a guide for all relationships we have in our lives, not just marriage. So, as a rule for this lesson, when we say “relationships,” think big picture! Don’t just think marriage. Don’t just think dating. Think about all the relationships you have. When we apply these principles to our lives as a general rule, they become habit. They seep into our very being. Then, when a relationship as serious as marriage comes along, we have trained ourselves in how to be in a healthy relationship.

1. Choose relationships wisely. (Proverbs 13:20)

All relationships begin with a choice. We are never forced into having a relationship with someone. That is why we must always be cautious around who we let into our lives and how much of our lives we share with them. Our core relationships should always be people who can come alongside us in our Christian walk and help us continue to grow more like Jesus.

2. Surround yourself with fellow believers (Hebrews 10:24-25)

Again, our core relationships should always be people who can come alongside us in our Christian walk and help us continue to grow more like Jesus. This is primarily found in a local church, which is what this passage is referring too. The best place to find good relationships is within a local body of believers who have committed to following Christ together.

3. Remember what really matters (Ephesians 4:1-3)

There is disagreement and frustration in every relationship we have. It is a natural product of imperfect people encountering one another. However, we can avoid useless strife and unnecessary pain by remembering what is important. Every relationship we have should be to bring honor to God and reflect His goodness and grace.

4. Always seek purity (Galatians 5:19-23)

When churches teach on purity, they usually mean sexually. That is absolutely true and needed! Sexual impurity in any relationship is guaranteed to cause damage. But we are trying to think big picture. So, let's think about how we can pursue purity in all relationships. This does not always apply just to sex, it applies to every part of a relationship. To pursue 'purity' simply means that every aspect of that relationship is honoring God. This impacts how we act and speak to everyone.

**Deepen:** Group Discussion Questions

1. When choosing relationships (friends, future spouse, etc.) how can we be wise in our search?
2. If you were to examine your closest group of friends, who are they? What do they believe? Are they after the same lifestyle that a believer should be?
3. What tends to be the cause of conflict in our relationships? Should these things be the focus?
4. What would it look like to seek purity in all our relationships? Not just sexually.

**Dream:**

We know that often the idea of dating is most thought of when discussing singleness. However, I hope you have seen that even common dating principles can be applied to all relationships. As a group, the best place to begin applying these principles is with each other.

As a group, view the following training session on Right Now Media and discuss how to begin applying the principles we have discussed into your group.

<https://www.rightnowmedia.org/Training/Post/View/74974>