

## GOING FURTHER

VALLEYDALE SUPPORT

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### Life Groups

Valleydale offers Adult Life Group for singles as well as groups combining singles and married couples. To get connected to a group or for more information, either stop by the Next Steps Desk in the lobby or go to [www.valleydale.org/lifegroups](http://www.valleydale.org/lifegroups) and click on "Find a Life Group".

### Valleydale Singles Ministry

The singles ministry at Valleydale is expanding. Preparations are underway for a Midweek experience for singles. Also, there are social opportunities for singles to fellowship and encourage one another. For more information about the singles ministry, contact [mlmlanier9@gmail.com](mailto:mlmlanier9@gmail.com).

### Podcasts

**"Dating to Marry"** (Search for "Valleydale Church" on Youtube. Select "Playlists." You will find the given title under the "ONEFamily" series.)

For more  
resources, visit  
[valleydale.org/family](http://valleydale.org/family)  
OR  
visit our resource  
center in the  
lobby

# SINGLE

## *Should You Pursue Marriage?*

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# SHOULD YOU PURSUE MARRIAGE?

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As an unmarried person, you have distinct opportunities to grow in your faith and to make a substantial contribution to the Kingdom. In fact, the season you're in has the potential to be the most formative period of your life. How can you best honor God in this time?

Many Christians wonder if they should move toward marriage or embrace the kind of single life the apostle Paul talks about in 1 Corinthians 7.

In order to evaluate your situation, ask yourself 2 questions:

## QUESTION ONE

### Have I Been Stalled?

Popular American culture tends to discourage marriage; implying people can live a more exciting, fulfilling life by remaining unmarried. Even Christians with the best intentions often drift into a single lifestyle marked by recreational relationships, hyper individualism, consumption and leisure. Following this cultural path, it's no surprise some Christian singles find their lives stalling out to loneliness, a series of broken relationships and a general lack of purpose. Those who find themselves in this cycle need to pause and reflect on how to become intentional rather than passive with regard to the single life.

## QUESTION TWO

### To What Am I Called?

In the Scriptures, God calls adults to follow one of two callings – either a path to Biblical marriage or a life of celibate service (Genesis 2, 1 Corinthians 7). The best way to honor God in your singleness is to be intentionally set apart for His purposes, recognizing that His call to both marriage and singleness is much different from the popular single culture because it includes a commitment to absolute purity, active engagement in Christian community, and faithful stewardship of your talents and resources. Singles who cultivate such qualities find it easier to discern if God is calling them to Biblical marriage or a lifetime of singleness.

- **Lifelong Singleness:** 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 7:6-7 points out that living this “life of service” is a gift or calling from God. In that context, serving God in this way makes full engagement in the body of Christ – giving and receiving fellowship – vitally important. It is not a “*consolation prize*” for those who haven’t yet found a spouse – but a purposeful life devoted to serving others as worship and “*being Jesus*” to others.
- **Marriage and Family:** Singles who don’t feel called to a lifetime of singleness should pursue a Biblical marriage (Ephesians 5:22-33) with hopeful preparation. While one may not know how and when they will marry, they can become intentional about eliminating roadblocks. They can remain faithful in purity, stewardship and community. They can also take initiative and pray purposefully for a good marriage. For men it means moving beyond passivity and taking the initiative to “*leave and cleave*” (Genesis 2:24) and to “*find*” a wife (Proverbs 18:22). For women, it means preparing for marriage in prudence (Proverbs 19:14), in purity Ephesians 5:1-5), in community (Titus 2:3-5 and Ephesians 4:11-16), and in prayerfulness (Matthew 7:7-9 and Matthew 21:21-22).

*Whatever the circumstances of your life, you can find purpose and fulfillment as you break away from a stalled culture and honor God in hopeful pursuit of either celibate service or a God-honoring marriage.*

## GOING FURTHER

### RESOURCES

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[Boundless.org](http://Boundless.org)

*Get Married* by Candice Watters

*A Guy's Guide to Marrying Well* by Alex Chediak & Scott Croft  
*Single, Dating, Engaged, Married* by Ben Stuart

[MarryWell.org](http://MarryWell.org)