

Marriage, Singleness, and Faithfulness to God

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God's design for marriage and singleness is not about status — it is about faithfulness in the season we are given.

Marriage is a gift from God. Singleness is also a gift from God. Yet many people — married, widowed, divorced, or never married — wrestle with questions about where they fit in God's design. Whether married or single, our highest calling is a faithful walk with God.

Wanting to stay single is okay. Wanting companionship is also okay and is not a weakness. Marriage should be entered prayerfully, not fearfully or impulsively.

Some long for companionship. Some carry wounds from broken marriages. Some grieve a spouse they loved. Others wonder whether they are meant to remain single. Scripture does not ignore these realities. Instead, it gives us guidance, purpose, and hope for every season of life.

To understand marriage under Christ, we begin at the beginning.

Is Marriage Good?

Yes. Marriage is part of God's original design.

Genesis 2:18 tells us, "It is not good that man should be alone." This was spoken before sin entered the world. Marriage was not created to fix brokenness, but as a good gift of companionship, help, and unity.

Genesis 2:21–24 shows us the first marriage: one man and one woman joined by God as "one flesh." Marriage is a divine institution, not merely a social arrangement.

Hebrews 13:4 reminds us that "Marriage is honorable among all."

Ecclesiastes 4:9–12 teaches that two are better than one — they strengthen and support each other.

Marriage is God-created, God-blessed, and designed for companionship and covenant.

Why Did God Give Us Marriage?

Marriage serves several purposes in God's design for humanity. Marriage is not given by God merely for reproduction, though children are a blessing that may come from it. Scripture shows that marriage is designed for companionship (Genesis 2:18), covenant faithfulness before God (Malachi 2:14), and as a living picture of Christ's love for His Church (Ephesians 5:31–32). It provides mutual support and stability in life (Ecclesiastes 4:9–12), offers a holy place for intimacy within God's design (1 Corinthians 7:2), and becomes a setting where character is shaped through patience, love, and wisdom. At its heart, marriage is about partnership under God — relational, spiritual, and formative — not simply biological.

Companionship — **Genesis 2:18**

Covenant reflection — **Malachi 2:14**

Picture of Christ & the Church — **Ephesians 5:31–32**

Stability and faithfulness — **Proverbs**

Protection of intimacy — **1 Corinthians 7:2**

What **Proverbs** Teaches Us About Marriage:

Proverbs gives practical wisdom about the character and stability that strengthen a marriage: a wise spouse is a blessing from the Lord (Prov. 18:22; 19:14); trust, faithfulness, and integrity protect a marriage (Prov. 31:11–12); kindness and patience preserve peace (Prov. 15:1; 19:11); and righteous living strengthens a home (Prov. 14:1).

Marriage is a living parable of covenant love. It reflects the relationship between Christ and His Church — a love marked by sacrifice, faithfulness, and grace.

What About Divorce?

This must be approached with truth and compassion. Divorce reflects the brokenness of our world, not the perfection of God's plan. Yet God's heart is always toward healing, restoration, and redemption. Those facing these situations need prayer, Scripture, wise counsel, and support — not shame.

Deuteronomy 24 shows divorce regulated, not celebrated.

Matthew 19:3–9 teaches that Jesus reaffirms God’s design for lifelong covenant while acknowledging that divorce occurs because of human hardness of heart.

In **1 Corinthians 7**, Paul addresses abandonment by an unbelieving spouse.

Matthew 19:9; and Matthew 5:32 teach us that Jesus says divorce was never God’s original design, but because of human hardness of heart it occurred. He then gives one exception — commonly understood as sexual unfaithfulness.

God hates the breaking of covenant, but He cares deeply for those who have been wounded. His grace meets people in their pain, and His wisdom guides them forward.

What about Dangerous or Abusive Situations?

It is important to say clearly: no one is called to remain in a situation where they are being harmed.

Scripture commands love, not cruelty (Colossians 3:19). Husbands are told to love their wives as Christ loved the Church — sacrificially, not violently (Ephesians 5:25). Abuse is a violation of God’s design, not an example of submission or endurance.

Seeking safety is not a lack of faith. Wisdom, protection of life, and seeking help are consistent with biblical principles. Separation for safety, involving authorities, and seeking counsel can be necessary steps in situations of abuse or danger. God does not ask someone to endure harm in order to “prove” faithfulness.

What About Widows/Widowers and Remarriage?

The loss of a spouse changes life deeply, and no two widows or widowers walk that road the same way. Some feel fear about beginning again. Some carry bitterness or grief that still needs healing. Some long for companionship and partnership. Others feel called to remain single. All these responses are human, and God sees each heart.

Scripture gives clear freedom in this season. In 1 Corinthians 7:39, Paul teaches that a widow is “free to be married to whom she wishes, only in the Lord.” Remarriage is not forbidden; it is permitted. At the same time, Scripture does not command remarriage. It presents it as a choice to be made with spiritual discernment.

Grief, fear, or loneliness should not be the only reasons to seek a new marriage, just as fear or guilt should not prevent someone from considering one. Healing, readiness,

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faith, and wisdom matter. The goal is not simply to avoid being alone, but to walk faithfully before God in whatever season He leads.

Some widows and widowers may find deep purpose and peace in remaining single. Others may, in time, enter a new marriage that honors God. Neither path is lesser when chosen prayerfully. The key is that any future relationship be “in the Lord” — grounded in faith, character, and a shared desire to follow Christ.

God’s care does not depend on whether someone remarries. He remains a provider, comforter, and sustainer. Whether in grief, in contentment, or in new beginnings, He walks closely with those who have lost.

Is It Better to Stay Single?

The Bible does not say singleness is automatically better for everyone. It says singleness can be a gift, just as marriage can be. In 1 Corinthians 7, Paul explains that singleness can allow a person to focus more fully on the Lord without the responsibilities of marriage. But he also says that not everyone has the same calling or capacity. Marriage is honorable (Hebrews 13:4), and companionship is part of God’s design (Genesis 2:18).

So, the better question is not, “Which is better?” but:

“Where can I be most faithful to God right now?”

Singleness is not spiritual promotion. Marriage is not spiritual completion. Faithfulness is the goal.

What about the desire for companionship? The desire for companionship is not wrong. We can pray for guidance, ask for wisdom (James 1:5), and trust Him with our future.

What About Dating?

Dating should be approached with intent — a time of discernment shaped by prayer, obedience, and holiness. Guarding the heart matters (Proverbs 4:23). A relationship built on shared faith and integrity matters more than chemistry alone. Dating should never require compromise with sin. Faithfulness to God’s design for intimacy protects both people and the relationship.

Closing Truth

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Marriage is good here in this world when lived according to God's design. It offers companionship, partnership, shared help, and a place to grow in love, patience, and faithfulness. Yet marriage is not the source of our completeness — God is. He remains our provider, comforter, and sustainer in every season.

Singleness is not an absence of blessing, and marriage is not the guarantee of fulfillment. Both are settings in which we learn to trust God, reflect His character, and walk in obedience. Some are called to marriage, some to singleness, some to remarriage, and some to long seasons of waiting. None of these positions define our worth.

Marriage will not exist in heaven. Our eternal relationship is with Christ, our true Bridegroom. Whether married or single, grieving or hopeful, content or longing, our highest calling is the same: to belong fully to Him and live faithfully in the season we are given.

Points to Ponder

1. What season am I in right now — married, single, widowed, divorced, or discerning a relationship — and how can I honor God faithfully here?
2. Do I see my current season as a calling from God, or something I am only trying to escape?
3. If I desire marriage, am I seeking companionship in God's timing, or rushing out of loneliness, fear, or pressure?
4. If I am considering dating, am I approaching relationships with prayer, wisdom, and faithfulness to God's design for intimacy?
5. If I am married, does my relationship reflect covenant love — patience, grace, forgiveness, faithfulness, and respect?
6. If I am single, how might this season give me freedom to grow in devotion, service, and spiritual maturity?

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7. Do I believe God is enough for me — whether or not my relationship status changes?
8. What step of faithfulness can I take today in my current season?
9. Am I willing to trust God with both my desires and His timing, believing that faithfulness to Him matters more than the outcome?

Prayer

Father God,

Thank You for Your wisdom and care in every season of life. You see us — married or single, grieving or hopeful, content or longing. Nothing about our stories surprises You.

Help us trust You where we are right now. When we feel grateful, keep our hearts humble. When we feel lonely, remind us of Your nearness. When relationships are strong, help us reflect Christ in love, patience, and faithfulness. When relationships are broken or lost, bring healing, comfort, and peace.

Guide those who desire companionship. Give discernment, patience, and courage to follow Your will above our own. Protect our hearts from fear, bitterness, or rushing ahead of You. Teach us to walk in faithfulness to Your design for love, purity, and covenant.

Whether You lead us into marriage, keep us in singleness, or open the door to new beginnings, help us rest in this truth: You are our provider, our sustainer, and our closest companion. Our identity and worth are secure in You.

We place our relationships, our hopes, and our futures into Your hands.

In Jesus' name,
Amen.