

EPISODE: 605

TITLE: **Marriage, Singleness, and Our Identity in Christ**

There are well-worn and common ways that Christians talk about marriage and singleness that may be a hindrance to many.

Here are three key things to believe and consider about marriage and singleness...

- 1. Many of the church's narratives have limited our understanding of marriage** and obscured our view of the life-giving and kingdom-serving roles of single people in the church. Jesus was single his entire life and is the most whole, complete picture of both human-ness and who God is! Don't limit your involvement or desires to serve God (inside or outside the structured church) based on your marital status, either single or married. In Christ, you have the Spirit of the living God inside you, and the church (all of us) need you!
- 2. God created you in his image, perfectly, before you were (or if you ever get) married.** And he loves you and sees you complete apart from any "achievements" you make in life. While marriage is a beautiful gift from God and a picture of the gospel in action, marriage was never intended to make you a "whole" person. You are completed in and for Christ, for his glory, alone.
- 3. Think about the language you use to talk about marriage to single people.** Is it life giving or limiting? Is it filled with a "wait for God" focus or a "fullness in Christ" focus? If single, what aspect of your identity and overall happiness is based on some day getting married? Have you placed limitations on all that God wants to do in and through your life as you wait for some possible future union? Also, remember the whole Church is your family. There should be no lonely people in the church!

"In Christian circles, [a] picture of marriage often becomes equated (and sometimes even conflated) with God's ultimate intentions for individuals and communities. In other words, it is not only socially normative, but religiously normative too. As a result, it takes on a kind of spiritual significance that derives its authority from a different register of meaning altogether..."

~ Kutter Callaway [Breaking the Marriage Idol: Reconstructing our Cultural and Spiritual Norms](#)

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Thanks for listening... we'll see you in the next episode!

~Caesar