

Singleness and the Church

Session 1 - God's Design

Common Misconceptions About Singleness - Sam Allberry

If you are single, can you identify with what Sam is saying?

What are some of the privileges of being single?

What are some of the struggles of being single?

If you are not single, can you imagine this being true for you?

A Biblical Framework

1) Creation

We are made in God's Image

God is Loving Trinity
(John 16:14, 17:1, 17:5, 1 John 4:8)

We are made for community/relationships
(Genesis 2:15-25)

“... the first time God said that anything was ‘not good’ was when he was talking about Adam being alone.’ But ‘must not be alone’ is not the same as ‘must be married’. The problem that God says is ‘not good’ is loneliness. One solution to this is marriage, but it is not the only solution.” (Kate Wharton)

2) Fall

(Genesis 3:7-13)

Sin turns us in on ourselves like Gollum

In Pairs

Compare Genesis 2:15-25 and 3:7-13. How does sin ruin all relationships?

“I just want to be filled/satisfied.” How do we see this attitude in marriage, singleness, friendships and church?

3) Redemption

(Romans 8:29)

God is remaking us in the image of Christ

4) New Creation

(Ephesians 5:32, Matthew 22:30, Revelation 21:2)

The Marriage of Christ and the Church is the Ultimate Marriage

Both human marriage and singleness are temporary

No human relationship can ultimately satisfy us

“These things... are good images of what we really desire; but if they are mistaken for things itself they turn into dumb idols, breaking the heart of their worshippers. For they are not the thing itself; they are only the scent of a flower we have not found, the echo of a tune we have not heard, news from a country we have not yet visited.” (C.S Lewis.)

A Theology of Singleness - Tim Keller

Marriage and singleness are equal but they do not often appear to be.

- 1. How is this often played out?***
- 2. How could this be different?***
- 3. What part can I play in making it different?***