Rebuilding Our Families: Living Godly By Yourself

Introduction: It used to be called the American Dream; go to school, get a job, get married, have a family. But what if the American Dream is not your dream? What if you live single in a doubles world?

**I) The Facts of Change**

**A) In 1970’s family households made up 81% of all households, now they make up 66%.** [**http://www.census.gov/prod/2013pubs/p20-570.pdf**](http://www.census.gov/prod/2013pubs/p20-570.pdf)

**B) in 1970 79% of adults were married, now 54% are married.**

**C) Department of labor statistics has these numbers for adults (16 years and up)**

1. 1976 single adults comprised 37.4% of the labor force, now 50%.

2. Married and civilly partnered couples now make up under half of all households 47% down from 50.7% in 2001.

3. The number of marriages has remained constant but the number of single adults has grown by 12.7 million.

“The traditional family based around a married couple is now the preserve of a minority with the number of single-adult households overtaking the number of couple households with dependent children, the census shows. http://www.forbes.com/sites/timworstall/2014/09/11/the-us-is-becoming-more-european-half-of-adult-americans-are-now-single/

**II) Living Single**

**A) Presents challenges**

1. Loneliness – one of causes of depression

2. Awkwardness of being the “3rd wheel” the extra person

3. Going to a restaurant and waiting by yourself for your food.

**B) People tend to forget what it is like**

1. Some people say “If I were you I would travel and have a good time”. But part of the fun of traveling is sharing the experience.

2. Others with good intentions try to be the match maker.

**III) Our Lesson**

**A) It is ok to be single**

1. Some are single because of the death of a spouse

2. Some are single because the “right person” has not come along. Lack of godly prospects.

3. Some are single because of family reasons or health reasons. Ex. Dewey Henderson, Kevin Kay

4. Some are single because they have seen the results of bad marriages.

5. Some are single because of a scriptural divorce

**B) Being married is not a prerequisite of entering heaven**

1. Be care full of pushing marriage, **1 Corinthians 7.1, 6-9, 24-27, 28.**

2. It is better to be single for a number of reasons and there are advantages of being single.

**C) Advantages**

1. Freedom and flexibility, **1 Corinthians 7.4, 27.**

a. The ability to move, change jobs, to go on a missionary trip

b. Jeremiah was told to remain single for a reason and one of those was what was ahead of him. We don’t know what is ahead of us but there are certain concerns you don’t have if you are single.

2. Allow a greater focus, **1 Corinthians 7.32-35**

a. If you have a spouse you have to pay attention to that person and please them.

b. If you have children you must rear them in the way to please God.

3. A gift that can glorify God, **Acts 13.2, 2 Corinthians 11.23-27**

a. You can relate better to those who are also single.

b. Could Paul have done these things if he were married? All those trips, all those lessons

**D) Potential dangers of being single**

1. Danger of self-pity, **1 Corinthians 7.35, 32-33; 1 Thess. 4.3-5.**

a. You are not the only single person in the world.

b. There is nothing wrong with you.

2. Temptation and selfishness

a. Sexual temptation, **1 Corinthians 7.8-9, 36.**

b. Flee sexual temptation, **1 Corinthians 6.18**

c. Other temptations such as self-centeredness, **2 Timothy 2.22.**

Conclusion: There are some things out of your control. In those cases you have to accept it and go onward. Place God first in your life. Some things are under your control. In those cases make wise decisions and place God first in your life. A single home can be a great encouragement to others.