One Church at Bethel’s Family

SINGLES 18-100
I. What does the Bible say about Singleness?

What Scripture verses are specifically for singles? And how can a Christian single know if they are living their life according to the Bible? Here are 5 things the Bible says about singleness.

I. The Bible Says Singleness Is a Gift from God

While many people feel like Singleness is a form of punishment from God, the Bible actually says the exact opposite. According to 1 Corinthians 7:7-9, singleness is a gift:

I wish that all were as I myself am. But each has his own gift from God, one of one kind and one of another. To the unmarried and the widows I say that it is good for them to remain single, as I am. But if they cannot exercise self-control, they should marry. For it is better to marry than to burn with passion.”

Notice that in this Bible passage we are taught that singleness and marriage are both gifts. It is a mistake for the church to teach anyone that singleness or marriage is not a gift from God.

God’s gifts, as we all know, are not always the gifts that we prefer. But no matter how badly someone wants to be married or how much someone loves being single, we as Christians must remember to place a high value on both singleness and marriage.

2. The Bible Says that Singleness Is Better Than Marriage, But Not for Everyone

There is a lot of confusion when it comes to understanding what the Bible says about singleness because many people read passages like 1 Corinthians 7 and conclude that the Bible teaches us that singleness is actually better than marriage. Many people read 1 Corinthians 7 and feel the Bible tells Christians that to truly love God one would remain single. For as Paul said:

I want you to be free from anxieties. The unmarried man is anxious about the things of the Lord, how to please the Lord. But the married man is anxious about worldly things, how to please his wife, and his interests are divided.” (1 Corinthians 7:32-34)
Clearly the take away from this Bible passage is that singleness does offer a distinct advantage to serving and loving God compared to marriage. But this is why it is so important to study Scripture in context, for if you keep reading in 1 Corinthians 7 you will find other Bible verses that say this about singleness and marriage:

But if they cannot exercise self-control, they should marry. For it is better to marry than to burn with passion. . . . Only let each person lead the life that the Lord has assigned to him, and to which God has called him. . . . If anyone thinks that he is not behaving properly toward his betrothed, if his passions are strong, and it has to be, let him do as he wishes: let them marry—it is no sin.” (1 Corinthians 7:9, 17, 36, emphasis mine.)

So which is better according to the Bible, singleness or marriage? The way I have come to interpret the point of 1 Corinthians 7 is that singleness is better than marriage in general when individual variables are not in the equation. But when you start factoring in actual people asking if singleness or marriage is better for them individually, then singleness is not always better. I believe the point of 1 Corinthians 7 is that a Christian single should pursue a life of singleness or marriage based upon which would better equip that person to serve God.

For much more on this, you may want to read my article titled, “Does the Bible Say that Singleness Is Better than Marriage?”

3. The Bible Says a Life of Singleness Should Only Be Actively Pursued By Those Who Are Truly Content to Be Single for Life

As we just discussed in point 2, one sign that someone is called to singleness is if being single would better equip them for ministry. Another sign that God is calling you to a life of singleness is if you are truly content being single and do not have a strong desire for sex and marriage (1 Corinthians 7:1-9).

Many people worry and become anxious about whether or not God is calling them to pursue singleness because they really want to be married. However, the fact that this person is worrisome and anxious about being single is usually a sign God is calling them to pursue marriage. As you read through 1 Corinthians 7, for example, there is a strong link between a Christian’s personal desire for marriage and them being called to pursue marriage. For as 1 Corinthians 7:36 states, “. . . let him do as he wishes: let them marry—it is no sin.”

Now, it is not a sign that you will definitely be married one day if you want to married. There are many Christians who want to be married who never get married for a variety of other factors (bad choices, no options, or God just having a different plan). However, I do believe the Bible says that
if you want to be married and you don’t want to be single forever, you should actively pursue marriage rather than actively pursuing singleness.

We cannot guarantee what the results will be, but it seems clear that the Bible does not command singleness for those who don’t want it. For in 1 Timothy 4:1-5 the Bible says that false teachers are the ones who forbid marriage, which should not be done because God made marriage to be received with thanksgiving for those who pursue it in holiness.

During the waiting process or if marriage does not happen, however, Christian singles should continue to pursue their joy in the Lord (Philippians 4:4) and learn to be content in Christ during singleness even if they are also discontent with singleness. It is not a sin to want to be married. It is only a sin when someone cannot be joyful in God unless God allows them to be married.

**4. The Bible Says that Singleness Is an Effective Tool for Ministry**

While each person should pursue singleness or marriage depending on what God is leading that individual person to do (1 Corinthians 7:7,17), all Christians must remember that the Bible says singleness is truly an effective tool for ministry. Whether you will be married one day or not, we all will have a season of singleness in our lives. And whether this season of singleness ends when you are in your early 20s or it lasts for your whole life even though you wish you could be married, God wants each of us to use our singleness as the gift God intended it to be. Therefore Christian singles must learn to use their singleness in the most effective way possible as the Bible instructs in 1 Corinthians 7:32-35. It states:

I want you to be free from anxieties. The unmarried man is anxious about the things of the Lord, how to please the Lord. But the married man is anxious about worldly things, how to please his wife, and his interests are divided. And the unmarried or betrothed woman is anxious about the things of the Lord, how to be holy in body and spirit. But the married woman is anxious about worldly things, how to please her husband. I say this for your own benefit, not to lay any restraint upon you, but to promote good order and to secure your undivided devotion to the Lord.”

In these Bible verses about singleness, we are taught that Christian singleness is an excellent season for ministry because there are less practical responsibilities when someone is single compared to when someone is married. This does not mean that according to the Bible Christian singles are called to serve more than Christian married people do in the church. Rather, it just means that there is a practical advantage of having more time and less responsibilities in singleness because marriage will require it’s own duties and responsibilities that are not present when someone is single.
But again, in context this does not mean that singleness is better for every Christian. For some Christians, they will be better equipped to serve in ministry with a partner (1 Peter 3:7). Nonetheless, the point remains that whether you want to be single or not, all Christian singles should seek to use this season of life to its fullest potential (Luke 16:10).

5. The Bible Says Singleness Should Be Used for the Glory of God

The Bible says, “So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God” (1 Corinthians 10:31). According to the Bible, we must also remember that “… whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him” (Colossians 3:17). So what does the Bible say about singleness? According to the Bible, singleness, along with everything else in life, should be used to bring God glory.

II. Here are 3 signs God wants to heal you from a past relationship wound.

1. If This Past Relationship Wound Is Controlling Your Relationships in the Present, This Is a Sign God Wants to Heal You

Like puppets on a string, the wounds in our hearts can control the way we live. One tug here and we run from love. One tug there and we run towards an unhealthy relationship in search of love. Pain can be very controlling. It’s easy to obey the feelings our wounds produce because we naturally want the pain to stop. But the true way to overcome pains in the heart is to find true healing in Christ. The wounds in our past will never stop trying to control us unless we bring them to the feet of Jesus and receive his healing touch. If you know what happened to you in the past is dictating how you are behaving and interacting with others in the present, this is a sign God wants to heal you from a past relationship wounds.

May we cry out with the words of Jeremiah 17:14, “Heal me, O Lord, and I shall be healed; save me, and I shall be saved, for you are my praise.”
2. **If This Past Relationship Wound Is Hijacking Your Thoughts, This Is a Sign God Wants to Heal You**

One definition of the word “hijack” is “to unlawfully seize in transit and force it to go to a different destination or use it for one’s own purposes.” This is exactly what a past relationship wound can do to your thoughts.

You will be thinking about one thing but then the pain in your heart will just take over your mind and you will get stuck **thinking about what happened to you in the past.** What we think about eventually controls what we do. So when our thoughts are being hijacked and taken over by a wound in our hearts, we will then begin to live in unhealthy ways as well.

Interestingly enough, the road between our hearts and minds flows both ways. So while a wound in your heart can control your thoughts, your thoughts can actually be used to bring healing to your heart as well. When our minds believe the truths about God’s love for us, this truth can then travel into our hearts and begin to heal the wounded places within us. Notice what Romans 12:2 states:

“Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.”

If your mind is being hijacked by wounds in the heart, reverse this negative cycle by putting healing truths into your mind which will then travel to your heart. When you choose to dwell on God’s truth in your mind – that you are loved (John 3:16), that through faith you have been transformed into a new creation by God’s grace (2 Corinthians 5:17), and that you have every spiritual blessing in Christ Jesus (Ephesians 1:3) – these truths will bring **healing to your heart.** For as Romans 8:6 teaches us, “For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace.”

3. **If This Past Relationship Wound Is Corrupting Your Beliefs About Love, This Is a Sign God Wants to Heal You**

Perhaps the worst part about being wounded in a past relationship is not the loss of that relationship, but the greater damage can take place when that wound begins to corrupt what you believe about love in general.

When someone is cynical about love and relationships, it is almost always because they have been hurt in their past. God made us to be loved by him and to love him in return. God also made us to love other people and to be loved by other people. As Jesus taught us in Matthew 22:37-40, the two greatest commandments are as follows: You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.”

To grow cynical and pessimistic about love is perhaps the greatest blow Satan can accomplish on the human heart. But God is able to heal us, to restore our hearts so we can love again. Love will
never be clean. It will never be safe. But love is always worth it. When you have begun to lose this belief and you have started to believe that love is not worth it, this is a sign your heart needs healing from the Lord.

There’s so much more we could talk about when it comes to healing, but the most important step to take if you truly want deep healing in your inner being is to enter into the presence of God. The presence of God alone can bring the healing we need. Sometimes there will be no words needed. Just to experience God’s love for you in a tangible and personal way as you sit in his presence – this is the place where the deepest healing is truly possible.

For as Psalm 147:3 states, “He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.”

III. God is Calling You to enter a season of just sitting still before the Lord

1. If You Already Took a Step of Faith and Now You Need to Let Time Go By to See What the Results Will Be, This Is a Signs God Wants You to Just Sit Still

We like to imagine that when God tells us to do something, we will see the results of our step of faith immediately after we take it. But that’s not how life always works. Sometimes that huge step of faith you finally took doesn’t result in immediate change but rather resulted in an important seed being planted that needs time to grow.

In relationships, for example, God often calls us to something proactive that requires us to take a big step of faith with the Lord. Perhaps God called you to express your feelings for someone you really like, or perhaps God directed you to ask someone out on a date, or perhaps God put it on your heart to apologize to someone you know you hurt.

After you take a step like this, oftentimes the ball is now in someone else’s court. It is easy to make the mistake of then putting too much pressure on other people to respond to your step of faith in the way that you expected them to. But after you make a big step of faith, what happens next is oftentimes out of your control. You can’t force someone to like you, to respond well to you, or to forgive you. When you keep pressing and trying to control the results of your actions, you can often end up working against the will of the Lord in your life and making things worse.

These principles can be seen in Exodus 14 when the Israelites took a step of faith and left Egypt with Moses. But then they grew fearful because the Egyptians were coming after them. Exodus 14:12-14 states:

Is not this what we said to you in Egypt: ‘Leave us alone that we may serve the Egyptians’? For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness.’ And Moses said to the people, ‘Fear not, stand firm, and see the salvation of the Lord, which he will work for
you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall never see again. The Lord will fight for you, and you have only to be silent.”

Notice that God first directed his people to take a huge step of faith and enter into the wilderness and leave Egypt. But then God told them to stop worrying and watch him take care of what needed to be done. Likewise, God will not tell you to just sit still forever in life and let him do everything. Rather, God will call you to take huge steps of faith, but after you obey, this season of stepping out in faith will often be followed by a season of waiting and trusting God as you sit still.

2. **If You Worked Hard to Do What God Told You to Do But Now You Are Getting Frazzled Because You Are Not Sure What Else You Can Do to Get the Results You Want, God Is Probably Telling You to Just Sit Still**

As we just discussed in point 1, there are times in life for doing and there are times in life for waiting. But how can you know which season God wants you to be in? Well, one sign God wants you to stop doing and start **waiting** is when you have done everything you know God has said to do and you don’t have any more directions to follow from God. Many times in life we get overwhelmed because we focus so much on what we don’t know, we forget to do what we do know we should do. You will never know everything, but you will usually know something. When you don’t know the whole future but you know a few steps God wants you to take, take those steps and be proactive. But once you walk forward in faith and come to a crossroads where you no longer know what to do, now is the time to sit still and refocus your attention onto the Lord.

It’s good to take those steps forward in life we know God is telling us to take, but when we keep trying to walk forward when we no longer have a clear direction on what else God wants us to do, that’s when we start to get frazzled. When you are trying to do something proactive but you don’t have a clear sense of what God actually wants you to do specifically, you will start feeling like you are getting pulled in a million different directions because you won’t know which is the true path forward.

When this happens, just stop and refocus on the Lord. Be patient. Take those steps of faith you know you should take but then slow down and recalibrate your heart to where the Holy Spirit is truly leading you. For as **Proverbs 3:5-6** states:

> Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.”

If you want God to make your path straight, you have to first slow down and trust him with all your heart and acknowledge him first. Only after this season of focusing on God will he then tell you what to do next.
3. **If You Are Beginning to Forget Who God Really Is, It’s Time to Just Sit Still and Remember the Eternal Truths Your Heart Desperately Needs**

Our *seasons of waiting and sitting still* are not meant to just be seasons of “me time.” Rest is good, vacations can be needed, and seasons of recuperation are absolutely essential. But these seasons of doing less are wasted if we do not focus our inner being back onto the greatness of God. Notice what Psalm 46:10 states, “Be still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!” Our seasons of just sitting still are not about just sitting still. Rather, being still is meant to be used for our hearts and minds to refocus on the eternal truths about God himself. “Be still, and know that I am God.” That’s what we all need. We all need to remember who God really is.

IV. **Five Things God will Show You When Someone Truly Loves You**

1. **When Someone Does Not Take Back Their Love When Things Get Emotionally Hard, This Is a Sign They Truly Love You**

One of the main Greek words used in the New Testament for the word “love” is “agape.” This word has a special emphasis on choice. In the Bible we see that true love is not just an emotion, although the emotions are certainly involved. Rather, true love is a willful choice to sacrifice for the benefit of another (John 15:13). This is why when someone truly loves you, they will not be constantly giving “love” and taking away “love” depending how they feel in that moment. When someone really loves you, they will love you in both the good times and the bad times. Even when things are getting emotionally hard, their love will remain. As Proverbs 17:17 states, “A friend loves at all times . . . .”
2. **When Someone Is Willing to Forgive You When You Sin Against Them, This Is a Sign They Truly Love You**

If you want to know what true love looks like, you have to look at God, for God is love (1 John 4:8). God shows his love for us in countless ways, but one of his most lavish expressions of love is his forgiveness. As 1 John 4:9 states:

In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him.”

God made forgiveness possible through lovingly sacrifice himself on our behalf. Likewise, when someone truly loves you, they will love you even after you sin against them. They will forgive you as God has forgiven us.

3. **If Someone Is Willing to Be Honest with You Even When They Know You Will Be Mad at Them, This Is a Sign They Truly Love You**

The one’s who love you the most are the ones who are willing to tell you the truth even when they know you will be upset.

If someone knows they sinned against you and they know you will be mad at them once they confess but they choose to tell you the truth anyways, this is a sign they truly love you. If someone sees you doing something that is damaging to yourself but they know you will be upset if they say anything but they choose to say something anyways, this is a sign they truly love you.

As Ephesians 4:15 teaches us, speaking the truth and love are always connected.

4. **If Someone Goes Out of Their Way to Avoid Temptation as a Way of Protecting Their Relationship with You, This Is a Sign They Truly Love You**

Satan hates Christ-centered relationships that are filled with true love. There are countless temptations in the world constantly seeking to corrupt this type of holy relationship. And in our flesh, we are easily pulled into quick pleasures that hurt the ones we love the most.

Therefore, when someone truly loves you, they will do their best to guard against the flesh, the world, and the devil. No one will be perfect, but when someone really does love you, they will do whatever they can to avoid falling to outside attacks meant to destroy your relationship because it brings glory to God.
5. **If Someone’s Expressions of Love Is Matched By Their Loyalty to You, This Is a Sign They Truly Love You**

There are so many other important expressions of true love, but near the top of any list must be loyalty. It’s not always the person who is shouting the loudest in support of you that loves you the most. Rather, the person who remains at your side when the crowds are no longer there, the person who has your back even when it will cost them, the person who won’t leave you through thick and thin - that is the person who truly loves you.

God is fiercely loyal to those he loves because you can’t have true love without loyalty. So when someone is loyal, that is a great sign they truly love you. For as 1 Corinthians 13:7-8 states, “Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends.”

As I mentioned at the beginning of this article, the deadline to enroll in AGW University will close tonight in just a few hours at 11:59pm. I certainly cannot guarantee that if you enroll in AGW University that God will send you a spouse right away. These training courses are not magic and I would never want to mislead anyone by thinking I know a secret marriage formula. However, what I can promise you is that if you are in a season of life where you are prepared to work hard and truly study what the word of God says about relationships, you will grow immensely by enrolling in AGW University. And while I would never claim to have a secret marriage formula, I have created a wise blueprint that you can follow to increase your chances of meeting the one God might have for you. I believe so much in the biblical information packed into these courses that I offer a 30 day money back guarantee for anyone not fully satisfied with their experience, no questions asked. Here’s what one my students said about her experience:

I feel so blessed by you and the training and instruction that I wouldn’t have otherwise received had I said, “No, not right now God” . . . I am really going through a serious season of spiritual change and growth right now and I’m so grateful that God loves me enough to rebuke, correct and mold me in His love.” - Nafisah

If you enroll before the deadline, which is tonight at 11:59pm (EST), you will get all three relationship training courses, which is a total of 28 in-depth biblical classes. Each class has a video and the content is all in writing as well. In addition to lifetime access to these three courses designed specifically for Christian singles who want to know a biblical path for singleness and dating, you will also get lifetime access to the AGW University private Facebook group. This is where all the students can come together, share their struggles, make new friends, and learn from each other. Lastly, if you enroll before the deadline I’m giving you three months of bonus email coaching with me for no additional tuition cost. This is where you can share your personal story with me and we can talk about what God might want you to do individually to receive the blessings he may have for you.

If you are interested and you want all this for half the normal tuition cost, you can click here to learn more. Again, this is not a magical formula. Rather, this is an invitation to those of you who desire to go the next level and receive specialized relationship training that stems right from God’s
V. Five Things will Happen When God wants Someone in Your Life

1. Mutual Interest, Mutual Commitment, and Mutual Progression Forward Are Signs God Truly Does Want You with Someone

One sign that is crucially important but is so obvious it often gets overlooked is the need for mutual interest from both people. I’ve talked to hundreds of Christian singles who have asked me whether or not God wants them with someone, but they have yet to determine if the other person is interested in them. God will rarely reveal anything about your relationship future with someone before you become aware of their feelings for you as well. Many singles want the security of knowing that a relationship will happen before they open up and reveal their feelings to the person they like. But again, God rarely allows this to happen. Instead, God will often reveal his will for this relationship through you expressing your feelings and seeing how the other person responds.

When there is mutual interest, mutual commitment, and a mutual willingness to move the relationship forward at a healthy pace, these are strong indications God does want you with this person.

2. When God Wants You with Someone, He Will Make the Relationship Possible in Practical Ways

Relationships are a unique place in life where the spiritual and practical combine and are constantly intermingling. There will be all kinds of spiritual indicators for Christians that God does or does not want them with someone. But God will also speak through the practical as well. For example, if you really want to be with someone but that person gets a job and moves away and doesn’t seem interested in dating you long-distance, this practical barrier in the relationship is a strong indication God does not want you two together. On the other hand, when the necessary practical ingredients for the relationship to work are present, this is a good indication God does want you two to progress forward.
Proverbs 16:9 states, “The heart of man plans his way, but the Lord establishes his steps.” When we apply this verse to our question at hand, this means we will not only have the desire to be with someone in our hearts, but when God wants us with that person, he will enable us to take the practical steps necessary to make the relationship a reality.

3. **Biblical Confirmation Will Always Be Present When God Wants You with Someone**

The Christian has a great advantage when it comes to relationships that the non-Christian does not have. We do not need to wonder and guess about what God does or does not want for us in life. When we read the Bible, we learn in very specific details how God wants us to live our lives. It's easy to get so overwhelmed with all the unknowns about a specific relationship you have questions about that you can begin to lose focus of what you do know. Sometimes the reason we cannot find answers to our questions is because we are asking God the wrong questions. What questions does God want us to ask him? The questions he has already answered for us in the Bible.

Most of the time we will not know all that we want to know, but we can always know what we need to know. The Bible shows us what is essential and most important. So if a relationship would cause you to disobey any part of the Bible, this relationship is clearly not of God. But when this relationship will actually help you obey what God has said in the Bible, this is a sign God does probably want you with this person.

*And a quick side, if you are someone who wants to do a deep study on what the Bible actually says about relationships, I wanted to let you know enrollment for AGW University is now open. Enrollment spots for these biblical relationship training courses and the email coaching with me are limited, so feel free to click here if you would like to learn more about this incredible opportunity which will end in just one week on 11/24/2019 at 11:59 pm EST.*

4. **Helpful Trials that Build You Up as a Couple Rather Than Tear You Down Are Signs God Wants You Two Together**

It is not wise to look at the easiest path and assume that is the way God wants you to go. The road leading to God's will for your life is often the road that is marked by more trials and tests compared to the easy path forward.

God disciplines those he loves as Hebrews 12:5-6 teaches us. In 1 Peter 4:12-19 we are taught that we should not be surprised by the fiery trials that test us, for as Christians we are called to bring God glory through these hardships. When God is bringing two people together, he will solidify and strengthen their bond not through easy times but through hard times.

Don’t get me wrong, a relationship should be filled with joy, fun, and pleasant seasons as well. But one sign that God truly does want you with someone is when the hard things that happen are used to strengthen your bond with each other rather than weaken it.
5. A Mutual Desire to Sacrifice Time and Energy to Make the Relationship Work Will Be Present When God Is Putting Two People Together

The best things in life take the most time and attention to cultivate and maintain. Never is this principle seen more clearly than when it comes to relationships. Without hard work and lots of energy spent, a relationship will die. If someone can’t muster up the strength to call you after work, the relationship is just not going to happen. If you just don’t like someone enough to use your weekends to get to know them, this relationship is clearly not meant to be.

God will not make a relationship happen by allowing you to bypass all the hard work but still magically allow the relationship to thrive somehow. No, when God truly wants you with someone, he will provide you both with the supernatural energy to make the relationship work. If the energy and the desire for sacrifice are not present, this is a sign the relationship is not going to happen.

CTA: As I mentioned, I’m currently offering an amazing opportunity for Christians singles looking for deep, biblical relationship training to help them prepare for a godly relationship. These courses will help you prepare your heart and heal from past wounds, along with giving you the biblical knowledge to succeed in a future relationship. AGW University will not provide you with a magic formula to make everything easier in dating. Rather, these courses and the email coaching with me will help train and equip you so you know how to handle the barriers that will try to block you from receiving God’s blessing on your relationship future. As one of my recent AGW students said:

VI. Three Signs God is Telling You to Create Boundaries for Someone in Your Life

1. If Someone Is Trying to Take Away the Authority God Has Give You Over Your Own Life, This Is a Sign God Wants You to Enforce Boundaries with This Person

Authority is a big deal to God. When I say God has give you authority over your own life, what I mean is that God has given you the primary responsibility for using your life for his glory. God is not going to judge someone else for how we live our lives. Just as in the parable where Jesus told us about the master who gave his three servants the talents in Matthew 25:14-30 and then judged them each according to what they did with his money, God will judge each of us with how we used the life he gave us.

This is why it is so dangerous for us to let other people try to control us. While it is sinful for others to try to impose their rule on us if they do not rightfully have that authority in our lives, it is
also our responsibility as adults to set up boundaries with people like this so they cannot take away our personal freedoms that God has given to us. So if a parent, a pastor, or even a well meaning friend is overstepping their boundaries by imposing their own will in your life, this is a sign God wants you to confront this issue and take back the control of your life that is rightfully yours.

2. If Someone Is Continually Attacking Your Beliefs in God, Either Passively or Openly, This Is a Sign God Wants You to Put Up Healthy Boundaries with This Person

The more valuable something is, the more protective we should be of it. Our relationship with God should be the most treasured possession we have, and at the core of our relationship with God is our beliefs about God. As A.W. Tozer said, “What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us.” This is why Psalm 1:1-2 states: Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night.”

Christians should be willing to engage in theological conversations with people who truly want to know what we believe. But we are not called to waste our time arguing with people who just want to fight and use hurtful verbal attacks (2 Timothy 2:23-24). If someone in your life is demeaning you for your beliefs about Jesus and trying to shame you because you love God, you are not required to keep that person in your life. Sometimes, however, you don’t need to completely remove someone like this from your life; but you will need to set up new boundaries for people like this so they know you will not tolerate these types of evil attacks.

3. If Someone Is Causing Unnecessary Temptation in Your Life, This Is a Sign God Wants You to Put Up Stronger Boundaries with This Person

There will always be temptation in this world no matter how much we try to avoid it. So God does not tell us to avoid every single person who might tempt us because that would literally be everyone. However, God does give us a special warning to avoid people who claim to be a Christian but live in sin. In 1 Corinthians 5:9-13 Paul states:
I wrote to you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral people— not at all meaning the sexually immoral of this world, or the greedy and swindlers, or idolaters, since then you would need to go out of the world. But now I am writing to you not to associate with anyone who bears the name of brother if he is guilty of sexual immorality or greed, or is an idolater, reviler, drunkard, or swindler—not even to eat with such a one. For what have I to do with judging outsiders? Is it not those inside the church whom you are to judge? God judges those outside. ‘Purge the evil person from among you.’”

Why does Paul place a higher emphasis on avoiding Christians who are living in sin and not repenting? Because Paul is already assuming that the church will not be unequally yoked with unbelievers (2 Corinthians 6:14). We are allowed to “associate” with the world as a means of being a light to them, but we are not supposed to let them gain any influence in our lives.

So it is easier for us to let our guards down around people who claim to be a Christian, but many people who go to church and claim to love God still actively live in sin and don’t repent. Paul is not telling us to only associate with perfect Christians. But he is telling us not to associate with Christians who are continually living in sin because they will be a temptation to us and drag us down with them. Removing people like this from our lives is actually meant to be a form of loving discipline for them as well.

Therefore, if someone is bringing unnecessary temptation into your life, whether they claim to be a Christian or not, God tells us to set up healthy boundaries with these people so we are not negatively influenced.

VII. Three Ways Satan is Hiding You from your Future Spouse

Rather than take away all evil and temptation in this world and thus take away all our opportunities to freely follow Christ, God empowers the Christian by his Spirit to reject evil and pursue good.

But if we do not depend on the power of the Holy Spirit, we will be negatively affected by spiritual warfare, including when it comes to our relationships. Satan loves to prevent godly marriage from forming, and one of the best ways he does that is by stopping godly dating relationships from happening.

So here are 3 signs Satan is trying to hide you from someone to stop you two from forming a godly relationship together.

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1. **If You Have Too Low a View of Yourself and Too High a View of Others, This Could Be a Sign Satan Is Trying to Hide You and Keep You Out of a Relationship**

This is a deadly combination for any Christian single person who desires to be married one day. When you feel ashamed, unworthy, and less valuable than others, these negative emotions will make you want to avoid Christian communities because you will feel like you don’t belong there. This negative cycle is intensified when you not only have too low a view of yourself but when you also have an unrealistic view of other people as well. It is so easy to magnify our own flaws and minimize the flaws of others. We live with ourselves every day, so we are constantly coming face to face with our every sinful thought and desire, but we can’t read the minds and hearts of others and thus we imagine everyone else to be so pure and perfect.

The false solution to this real problem is to start giving yourself a pep talk to minimize your sin, “Hey, cheer up self, your not that bad. Everyone has a messed up past like you. Every one sins like you do.” We must never minimize our own sin. The real solution is to look to Christ and remember what he alone has accomplished through the glorious gospel. The reality is, none of us are worthy of anything good because we have all fallen short of God’s glory. But that’s where the grace of God comes in and saves us.

Satan wants to minimize the power of God’s grace. Don’t let him. If you are a Christian, you are completely pure in Christ, “... where sin increased, grace abounded all the more, so that, as sin reigned in death, grace also might reign through righteousness leading to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord” *(Romans 5:20-21)*.

2. **If You Are Sinfully Addicted to the Wrong Person, This Is a Sign Satan Is Trying to Hide You from the Right Type of Person God Would Want You to Marry**

One of the devil’s most powerful attacks against Christians is to tempt us to take a good thing and use it in a bad way. For example, your desire to be loved and in a relationship is good. Your desire to have sex is good. Your desire to help lost people know Christ is good. But when you allow these good desires to lead you into a sinful and unequally yoked relationship, now you are falling right into Satan’s trap.

The devil will try to use your good desire to be a witness for Christ and use it to get you to deny the command in *2 Corinthians 6:14* to not be in an unequally yoked relationship with an unbeliever. Satan will use your good desire for sex and use it to tempt you to have premarital sex outside of the covenant bond between a husband and wife as *1 Corinthians 7:1-5* explains. Satan will use your good desire to be loved to tempt you to attach yourself to someone who just wants to selfishly use you.
The enemy knows that when you are with the wrong person, you are safely hidden from the right person God does want you to be with.

3. If You Are Allowing the Wounds of Your Heart to Control You, This Could Be a Sign Satan Is Hiding You to Keep You from a Godly Relationship

Our first experiences with romance when we are young are often a source of such pain that they continually remind us of how dangerous love is even when we are much older. Even after years of healthy counseling and healing, the memory of those bad relationship experiences can cause immense fear to arise in us anytime we have a relationship opportunity. Satan, being the opportunist he is, will not waste this perfect scenario to keep us lonely and fearful. While we must never minimize the wounds in our heart or ignore the pain that has happened in the past, we must also not be controlled by these things either. It’s a good rule of thumb to assume that anytime you are being controlled by fear, this is not of God. 2 Timothy 1:7 (NIV) states, “For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline.” So seek healing. Seek the strength of the Lord. But don’t let Satan use the wounds of your past to control you like a puppet on strings. One little tug on that old wound, and boom, you hide yourself from love again because you are afraid of getting hurt – this is not what God wants. Trust God more than you fear pain. Be wise. Don’t ever allows yourself to be controlled by fear. That’s what Satan wants. When you follow God in faith, he will cause you to be fearless, allowing you to meet the right person in his timing if that is his will for you.

VIII. Five Things That Won’t Happen When You Meet The One for You

1. You Will Not Instantly Know Your Entire Future Together When You First Meet The One God Wants You to Marry

Many people have claimed that God instantly told them that they will marry someone they just met. For some people it all worked out and the marriage actually happened one day. For most people who feel like they heard this, it doesn’t work out that way and they are left confused and hurt.
I’m not here to say God never does this type of thing or can’t do this. But normally he does not verbally tell you who you are going to marry when you first meet that person. Normally when people feel that way it is just their own thoughts speaking to them and not actually God’s voice. But even if God does say something like that to you and you do end up getting married to that person, this still will not mean that God will reveal every little detail about your future together. When you meet the one God has for you, you should not expect to instantly know he or she is “the one” before you actually get to know him or her. You should expect there to be many relationship questions early on.

Don’t let a little confusion scare you away. Don’t assume that because you don’t know if this person is the one that God is giving you a “no.” Not knowing what will happen is a part of the process. You don’t need to know the future to be at peace. You just need to know the God who holds your future in his hands, for as Psalm 139:16 (NIV) states, “Your eyes saw my unformed body; all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.”

2. You May Not Have Instant Chemistry with the Person God Wants You to Marry

It is a myth to assume that everyone will instantly have butterflies in their stomach and start quoting poetry to one another when they first meet the person God wants them to marry. Some people need to be friends for a longtime before they realize God wants them together. Sometimes one person likes the other person first but the feelings are not mutual until much later on. And sometimes two people date but they are filled with all kinds of doubts and questions early on before they gain that peace that they should not breakup and God does actually want them to get married one day.

Most of the time your feelings won’t change and you will still not like someone no matter how much time passes, but sometimes feelings really do change. So don’t shut down all possibilities of dating someone you did not like that much at first. Some of you have already met the person God will have you marry one day but you have no idea because you don’t like that person yet.

3. You May Not Have the Full Support of Your Friends and Family When You Meet The One

As Christians, we must never deny the importance of our community as Galatians 6:1-5 explains. If every mature Christian in your life is telling you to be careful and is sharing concerns about someone you like, this is a strong sign this is not the person God has for you. But sometimes it will take time for God to show everyone else what he has already shown you about someone. Again, we need to be careful here because the temptation will be to ignore everyone else’s concerns and just listen to ourselves. But it is possible for the people in your life to be wrong. You should be especially cautious when listening to other people’s warnings when they themselves do not have a strong relationship with God or a good track record in their own life when it comes to relationships.
4. You May Not Meet This Person in a Way That You Expected

I remember talking to one woman who truly felt that she needed to leave an open seat next to her at church because God was going to bring the man he wanted her to marry by having him sit right next to her. Could God do that? Of course he could, but usually it doesn’t happen that way. In fact, usually God will bring someone into your life in the one way you never thought he would. So don’t shut any door God may lead you to walk through. You may have never imagined yourself trying online dating, going on a blind date, or dating an old friend you’ve known for years. God will rarely bring the person he wants you to marry into your life the way you expected, so don’t miss out because you have too many expectations you are unwilling to let go of.

5. You Two Will Not Meet Every Expectation You Have for One Another

Once you do actually meet the one God wants you to marry, this person will not be exactly like the person you always imagined you would marry. He or she might be a different race than you imagined, they might be a different height than you imagined, they might have a different personality than you imagined – in short, the only thing you can count on is that they will not be the exact way you imagined. And not only will they be different than you imagined, but you will not be exactly the way they imagined their future spouse to be either. You two may be similar to what you both had always hoped for or you both might be totally different. But either way, according to Psalm 139:14, we are all fearfully and wonderfully made by God himself, so you should not assume God will bring someone that you created in your own mind. God does the creating, we are called to do the enjoying.

When you meet the one God has for you, this person will be unique and special, and the real joy will be getting to know them for who God made them to be and not who you expected them to be.

IX. Four Signs That God is Trying to Protect You From Making A Hugh Mistake

God could choose to override our free will and stop us from ever making a mistake again, but that is not what God ever chooses to do. Rather, God is always communicating his will to us and will always provide a way of escape from our mistakes if we choose to listen and obey him (1 Corinthians 10:13).
1. If the Holy Spirit Is Bringing Loving Conviction Through His Word, This Is a Strong Sign God Is Trying to Stop You from Making a Big Mistake

While the Holy Spirit can reveal God’s will in our lives in many unique ways, the primary way the Holy Spirit truly speaks to his people is through the written Scriptures. The Holy Spirit will never say anything to you that contradicts what he has already said in the Bible. The regular pattern for the Christian is not that the Holy Spirit will reveal new information to him or her. Rather, the regular pattern is that the Holy Spirit will help the Christian apply God’s timeless truth to his or her individual life circumstances and questions. The Bible always has one meaning that can never change, but the Holy Spirit will help God’s people apply those eternal truths to our personal situations in the here and now. For as James 1:22 states, “But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.”

2. If God Is Disciplining You for “Small Mistakes,” This Is a Sign God Is Seeking to Protect You from Making Larger Mistakes in the Future

If you lie to someone you will reap negative consequences, but those negative consequences will not be the same compared to what would happen if you murdered someone. While both a lie and murder will separate you from God if Christ does not atone for those sins, there are certainly greater natural consequences here on earth depending on the level of the offense. One way God will keep you from making huge mistakes in life is by correcting you when you make smaller mistakes. God knows all sin is progressive, meaning it always gets worse if left unaddressed. If you allow the sinful nature to get a foothold somewhere in your life and you start to make compromises with sin, that crack will only grow larger and larger until it completely takes over your life. In Psalm 19:12-13 David prayed:

But who can discern their own errors? Forgive my hidden faults. Keep your servant also from willful sins; may they not rule over me. Then I will be blameless, innocent of great transgression.”

Notice David’s concern with the hidden faults in his life because he knows they will always progress and grow into “great transgressions.” So if God is convicting you of something the world would see as “small,” don’t ignore this. The best way to avoid huge mistakes in life is to repent quickly when you make smaller ones.

3. If the Holy Spirit Is Warning You Through His Church, the Body of Christ, This Is a Sign God Is Seeking to Protect You
The church will always be flawed until the day Christ returns because all Christians are on the road of sanctification. So it is very easy for Christians to misuse church discipline and do more damage than good sometimes. But when done properly, God desires that his people correct one another in love to help each other avoid massive mistakes in life. Galatians 6:1-2 states:

Brothers and sisters, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted. Bear one another’s burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.”

When people truly love you and care about you, they will go out of their way to share their concerns. It is much easier to hug people to hell. It is much easier to just claim “acceptance” when in reality we are just too afraid to confront another brother or sister in Christ who is living in sin. But according to Hebrews 12:6, God disciplines the ones he loves, and God expects the church to do this as well.

Again, we must be careful we only discipline others in a biblical manner and in a spirit of love. The Bible does not give us a blank check to just point out everyone’s sin and judge whoever we want to judge. According to 1 Corinthians 5:12-13, the church is not to cast judgment on the world around them or on Christians they don’t have a relationship with. But when the body of Christ is functioning properly and in love, members of a local church care enough about each other to loving share their concerns and biblical warnings. It's not easy to receive a loving rebuke from another brother or sister in Christ, but oftentimes God will seek to protect us from making huge mistakes in life by speaking words of love, encouragement, and discipline through the other Christians who are invested in our lives.

4. If God Is Showing You a Wiser and Better Way to Proceed Forward, This Is a Sign God Is Seeking to Protect You from Making a Huge Mistake in Life

When you seek God’s will but you are still unsure what God wants you to do, usually God is asking you to make the wisest decision possible. In fact, there is a pattern in Scripture that the riskier a choice is the more confirmation God will give you to make it. When God told Gideon to cut the fighting men down to just 300 in Judges 7, God confirmed this unwise military tactic in very supernatural ways that made it clear to Gideon that this truly was what God wanted him to do.

But without those very clear signs from God, it would have been absolutely foolish for Gideon to act that way. God will not normally reveal his will for you in supernatural ways. Normally God will lead you by his Spirit to make wise decisions in life.

So when you are contemplating making a very unwise decision and wondering if God is just asking you to make a huge step of faith even though there is not a huge amount of confirmation from God to take this risk, God will often protect you by opening your eyes to the wise path forward. As 1 Corinthians 10:13 states:
No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.”

When God opens doors for you so you can make good and wise decisions in life rather than living recklessly, this is a sign God is seeking to protect you. Obey the Lord. You won’t regret it.

**X. Three Signs That God Has You Right Where He Want You To Be**

1. **If You Are Going Through Something that You Can’t Do Unless God Empowers You, You Are Right Where He Wants You**

If you are able to live your life in your own strength, you are not doing what God wants you to do. If you are able to survive without prayer, without God’s presence, and without the Lord intervening to help you, this means you are not in the center of God’s will for your life. When you are following God, he will lead you into places where you will not survive if you depend on your own strength. God gave Moses an impossible task. He called Moses to lead his people, but Moses knew that God did expect him to do this in his own strength. Moses knew that God's call on his life would require God’s presence in his life. Notice the conversation Moses and God had with each other in Exodus 33:13-17 (NIV). Moses said:

Now therefore, if I have found favor in your sight, please show me now your ways, that I may know you in order to find favor in your sight. Consider too that this nation is your people.” And [the Lord] said, “My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest.” And [Moses] said to him, “If your presence will not go with me, do not bring us up from here. For how shall it be known that I have found favor in your sight, I and your people? Is it not in your going with us, so that we
are distinct, I and your people, from every other people on the face of the earth? And the Lord said to Moses, “This very thing that you have spoken I will do, for you have found favor in my sight, and I know you by name.”

Like Moses, we must never try to accomplish God’s will without God’s presence. So if you are in a place in life where you are unable to succeed unless the Lord shows up, this is a sign God has you right where he wants you.

2. If You Know What God Wants You to Do But You Are Not Sure What Will Happen Once You Do It, This Is a Sign God Has You Right Where He Wants You

Biblical faith is expressed when you obey the Lord even when you are unsure of what the results will be. God will often tell us what to do before he will reveal the outcome of our obedience. We often imagine that if we do exactly what God says we will get the exact results that we want, but that is not always the case.

Life doesn’t always turn out the way that we want even when we are accomplishing God’s will for our lives. We have been wrongly taught that if you obey God he will bless you with what you want. That is not true. God is God. He does what he wants even when we would prefer that he would do something different in our lives.

Perhaps God will let you get married but perhaps he won’t. Perhaps God will give you that job or perhaps he won’t. Perhaps he will heal that sickness or perhaps he won’t. Perhaps God will answer that prayer request you’ve been praying for years or perhaps he won’t. The mark of a true Christian will be shown when life does not go the way we expected and yet we follow God anyways.

Why? Because God knows, when everything is said and done, this life on earth will be but a breath compared to eternity with him. If you obey God on earth even when things are not going the way you want, you will reap the rewards for eternity by enjoying his presence forever.

May we model the passion of Christ when he said in John 12:27-28, “Now my soul is troubled, and what shall I say? ‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, it was for this very reason I came to this hour. Father, glorify your name!”

3. If Your Relationship with God Is Growing, God Has You Right Where He Wants You

Life will be full of peaks and valleys, laughter and sadness, happiness and pain. But none of those things are the main point. Above everything else, God is most concerned with your personal walk
with him. He will use the good times and the bad times to help you receive his ultimate blessing – the gift of himself.

No relationship, no earthly blessing, nothing in all of creation can satisfy our hearts like the presence of God. Therefore, God has you right where he wants you when your circumstances are forcing you to grow in your relationship with God. For as Psalm 27:4 (NIV) states:

One thing I ask from the Lord, this only do I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze on the beauty of the Lord and to seek him in his temple.”

XI. Three Sign When God is Saying Your Dating The Wrong Person

1. If You Know You Are Forcing It and You Don’t Really Want to Date This Person, This Is a Sign God Is Telling You Not to Date This Person Anymore

There is no command in the Bible for everyone to be married. In fact, when you read 1 Corinthians 7, we see that the Bible highlights the value of both singleness and marriage. But again, neither one is commanded. Rather, both are biblical options which each Christian is free to choose.

This may seem like an obvious point, but it is important to highlight that marriage is not a command in the Bible because we then must apply this truth to the individual as well. Because marriage is a biblical option and not a biblical command, God would never command you to marry someone you don’t want to marry. Because marriage in general is your personal choice, marrying someone specific is your choice as well.

Certainly the choice to marry someone should only be done when you sense God is leading you to marry this person. I’m not saying that we can all do whatever we want even if God is saying, “No.” But God will not tell you to marry someone without first giving you the desire to marry this person. Therefore, if you don’t have the desire to marry someone it is safe to also say God is not telling you to marry that person.

Thus, one sign that God is trying to tell you that you are dating the wrong person is when he is showing you that you are forcing this relationship to work but deep down you know you don’t actually want to date this person anymore.
2. **If This Relationship Is Hurting Your Walk with God and Minimizing Your Ministry Impact, This Is a Sign God Is Telling You to Not Date This Person Anymore**

Since the Bible does not directly discuss dating, we have to study what the Bible does say and then apply those truths with wisdom to the topic of dating. Since dating is used in our modern culture to take steps towards marriage, it is wise to look at the biblical purpose of marriage to see if this dating relationship is reflective of what God would want if you two did get married one day. There are many biblical reasons for marriage, but two important goals for a Christian marriage is that it should help your walk with God and it should help your ministry impact. In other words, a marriage should help you accomplish the two greatest commands in the Bible which Jesus said are actually good summaries of all the commands in the Bible:

And [Jesus] said to him, ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.” ([Matthew 22:37-40](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?v=mat&v=22.37-40))

If you want to know what the Bible says specifically to you, you first need to know what the Bible says to us all. As Jesus said, if you wanted to boil it down really simply, God wants us to love him and to love people. And as we know, love is not just about words and feelings but about sacrifice and actions.

So we know God wants us to obey his commands, and we know his commands are summarized as “Love God and love people.” Therefore, your dating relationship is a biblical relationship when it is helping you love God more and increasing your ministry impact as you serve other people. If your dating relationship is pulling you away from God, it is not realistic to think that this trend would change if you married this person.

3. **If You Are Constantly Asking Yourself, “I wonder if there is someone better out there for me?” This Is Probably a Sign God Is Telling You It’s Time to Move On**

We have to be careful when using phrases like this. We don’t want to start rating people like they are material possessions created for our personal pleasure. We don’t want to rank people and think that some people are better than others.

However, I believe this phrase has value when you add the “for me” part. So we are not saying, “I wonder if there is someone better out there.” That phrase will get you into trouble and force you to always be looking for the perfect person. You will always be single if you are looking for perfection because the flawless person does not exist except for Christ himself. But certainly there is one person that will be the best fit for you personally, if indeed you are called to marriage. My
wife Bethany is not the best woman in the world and I am not the best man in the world, but she is the best woman in the world “for me” and I am the best man in the world “for her.”

With that said, this is a normal and healthy question to ask in the beginning of a relationship. You don’t need to know you want to marry someone in order to keep dating them. That’s the point of dating - to figure out if you want to get married one day. But if the relationship has passed into that phase where it would be considered a “long-term” relationship because the two of you are serious and have been dating awhile, those questions about finding someone “better for me” should eventually stop.

You should never marry someone if you are wondering if there is someone better out there for you. When God wants you to keep dating someone in a relationship headed towards marriage, he will remove all those doubts we all have at the beginning of a relationship. But when those thoughts remain and they don’t stop, usually this means it’s time to move on because God does not want you to date this person anymore.

**XII. Good Things God Will Do When You Put Him First**

Many people imagine their life as being made up of many boxes. We have our friend box, romance box, church box, parenting box, college box, career box, hobby box, and of course our God box. So, with this framework in mind, to put God first means that your God box is ordered before all your other boxes.

While there are certainly worse images to use to explain this idea of putting God first, this is not really the biblical way to glorify God in your life. Rather than to put God in your most important box, God wants to be first in all the other areas of your life. God wants to consume all your boxes. So he wants to be first in your friendships, in your romantic relationship, in your career, and so on.

God doesn’t want to be separated from all the other areas of your life. Rather, God wants you to glorify him through all the areas of your life. For as 1 Corinthians 10:31 famously puts it, “So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.” When we put God first like this, we will reap massive rewards.

So here are 3 good things that will happen to you when you put God first in your life.

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1. **When You Put God First in Your Life, You Will Experience the Joy of Living with No Regrets**

Perhaps one of the biggest joy-stealers in life is regret. Regret robs us of living with joy in the present because we are living under the shame of our past. Regret happens when we know we missed a golden opportunity that we might never get back. Life is meant to be a serious of opportunities to glorify God. When we live for ourselves rather than for God, we will end up looking back with regret because we will know we wasted much of our lives in self-centeredness. Notice what Paul said in [1 Corinthians 7:29-31](#). It states:

This is what I mean, brothers: the appointed time has grown very short. From now on, let those who have wives live as though they had none, and those who mourn as though they were not mourning, and those who rejoice as though they were not rejoicing, and those who buy as though they had no goods, and those who deal with the world as though they had no dealings with it. For the present form of this world is passing away.”

1 Corinthians 7 is one of those passages that constantly gets misunderstood. In this passage Paul makes arguments to pursue both the gift of singleness and the gift of marriage. But which one is better? Paul states that each person should choose singleness or marriage based upon which lifestyle will help them personally put God first in their life. It's not really about singleness or marriage being better. Paul’s point is that putting God first is what is best. This is why he states those who are married should live as though they are not. This does not mean you ignore your spouse. That would contradict many other parts of Scripture. Paul’s point is that whether you are single, married, mourning, rejoicing, or working, you must put God first. There’s no perfect life situation that will lead to supreme happiness on its own. Rather, putting God first will result in the most joyful life possible. So one of the main benefits of putting God first in your life is that you will know you did not waste your life. Ultimately, in the end, it won’t matter if you were married or single, rich or poor, popular or unpopular. If you know you lived your life for the glory of God, you will be able to look back with no regrets.

2. **When You Put God First in Your Life, You Will Experience the Clarity and Sense of Purpose Everyone Else Is Constantly Looking For**

All people are constantly living their life in search for meaning. They go from one religion to atheism. They go from materialism to minimalism. They go from doing drugs to preaching a gluten free diet. And yet their search just keeps going on and on when they don’t truly realize that God made them for himself. When we don’t put God first, we are missing our purpose and thus we will constantly feel lost and confused. As [Isaiah 43:6-7](#) states:
I will say to the north, Give up, and to the south, Do not withhold; bring my sons from afar and my daughters from the end of the earth, everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made.”

It’s so clear in the Bible that our primary purpose in life is to glorify God. A Christian is not called to constantly be looking for their purpose like the rest of the world is doing. Rather, a Christian is called to live from their purpose. We know why we are here and we know what we are supposed to do. We are called to glorify God through advancing his kingdom, for as Jesus said in Matthew 28:18-20:

All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

So when you put God first, you will experience the deep clarity and purpose everyone else is constantly searching for.

3. When You Put God First in Your Life, You Will Have a Better Chance of Receiving the Good Desires of Your Heart

There are so many more blessings that stem from putting God first in your life. But one huge benefit of truly honoring God in your heart above everything else is that this will free God to bless you with other things which he wants you to use to bring him more glory. We need to be careful that we don’t fall into prosperity-gospel theology where we just serve God to get things from God, but we also need to be just as careful that we do not start preaching a poverty-gospel either.

Serving God should never be used as a means of getting something from God. Having a relationship with God himself is the ultimate rewards. If anyone promises you that if you send them a check you will be blessed with even more money, turn the TV off and walk away. If someone promises you that if you love God enough he will make your life perfect, point them to the cross of Christ. No one has loved the Father more than Jesus, and the Father sent Jesus to the cross to die for our good and his glory.

With all that said, we must also remember that our God owns everything on earth. As 1 Timothy 6:17 states, “As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy.” Here we see that we must not love riches but we also must learn to enjoy the blessings God gives us too. The more wealth we gain the more generous God expects us to be. More could be said about how to honor the Lord through his earthly blessings, but my main point for this article is that when you put God first, you are also increasing the chances of receiving the other desires of your heart that are pleasing to the Lord. If you desire to be married,
if you desire a certain career path, or if you desire some other thing in life, you cannot force God to give you these things by serving him. He may give you what you ask for or he may not. But it is highly unlikely God will bless you with an idol. It is highly unlikely God will give you something he knows will only pull you further away from him. It is much more likely God will give you the desires of your heart when you are truly prepared to glorify him with those gifts. So when you truly put God first in your life, you are increasing the chances of receiving the other healthy desires God has placed on your heart. For as Psalm 37:4 states, “Delight yourself in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart.”

XIII. Three Signs That God Is Telling You To Remove Someone From Your Life

1. If God Clearly Removed This Person from Your Life in the Past, But This Person Keeps Trying to Push Themselves Back In, This Is a Sign God Wants You to Stop This Vicious Cycle

One common experience that people have is that they pray and pray for clarity about a relationship they are confused about, and then God answers their prayer by clearly removing this person from their life. Perhaps God exposes some lies so you feel released to breakup. Perhaps this person just comes to you one day and says they no longer want to be with you. While you are hurt, you also feel relief because this was clearly an answer to your prayers. Or perhaps you finally just get the clarity to see that this person is verbally and emotionally abusive and you break up and move on.

However, what often happens next creates a vicious cycle that can causes years of wasted time. What occurs is that months go by, you are doing really well, but then this person contacts you and sounds different. You listen to their apology or you listen to the new tone in their voice, and you begin to wonder if things might really be different this time.

While it is possible that someone has turned to the Lord and matured, what usually happens is that things quickly pickup right where you left off. If you left this person because of their bad behavior, you end up realizing nothing has really changed and then you leave again. Or if they left you because they said they didn’t like you enough, they end up leaving you again because they realize their feelings are actually the same as last time.

Sadly, a few months pass and then this whole crazy cycle starts all over again. For some people, it takes 5 or 6 cycles to finally realize this has to end for good. But all this wasted time can be avoided. If God answered your prayer the first time and took this person out of your life, but then this person keeps coming back, God is probably asking you to keep the door closed.
So if you keep getting “setback” every time you dabble with this person, it’s time to take control and slam that door shut so you can truly move on with the Lord. Stop answering their calls. Stop responding to the texts. Stop checking their social media profile. Don’t let them keep you stuck. You will never experience the blessings God has for you if you keep holding onto what he has already removed from your life.

2. If You Keep Hoping God Changes Them but Their Actions Clearly State They Don’t Want to Be Changed, It’s Time to Remove Them From Your Life

This one can be hard as Christians because clearly we should want the best for everyone. We don’t want to be judgmental and we want to be used by God to help other people. While this is very good and loving to feel this way, many Christians ignore the other Scriptures that instruct us not to associate with people who are resistant to the truth and are only dragging us down. For example:

Matthew 7:6, “Do not give dogs what is holy, and do not throw your pearls before pigs, lest they trample them underfoot and turn to attack you.”

Matthew 10:14, “And if anyone will not receive you or listen to your words, shake off the dust from your feet when you leave that house or town.”

James 4:4, “You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.”

So we have to heed God’s instructions on both sides. We must love the lost like God does. He sent his one and only son to save the world (John 3:16) and desires that his disciples go out and make more disciples (Matthew 28:18-20). But God does not want us to put other people above our walk with him.

Perhaps the most common example of a scenario like this is when two people are dating and one person is trying to follow God but the other person really isn’t. Eventually, if the person who wants to serve God stays in this relationship, they will get worn down and start to sin with their boyfriend or girlfriend.

Don’t stay in a relationship because you are hoping God will change this person. If this person is choosing to ignore God, God will allow them to make their own choice. Now you have to make your choice as well. Will you put this relationship above God or will you remove this person from your life like God is asking you to do?

When someone refuses to receive the truth, when they continue to live in sin, and when their behavior is actually beginning to pull you down too, this is a sign God is telling you it’s time to let this person go.
3. **If This Person Is Constantly Battling Your Beliefs with False Doctrines and Lies, It’s Time to Remove Them from Your Life**

There’s a time and place for two people to share their opposing beliefs. God does not call his people to be isolationists. Yes, we must not be unequally yoked (2 Corinthians 6:14), but God calls his people to be a light to the world (Matthew 5:14-16). This is why 2 Timothy 2:24-26 states:

And the Lord’s servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil, correcting his opponents with gentleness. God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth, and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, after being captured by him to do his will.”

So we must not ignore the Bible verses like this one where we are called to engage people who have different beliefs than us. But notice that Paul told Timothy not to argue. When someone wants to argue or when someone refuses to accept the truth even though you’ve explained it as clearly and gently as possible, then it is time to remove this person from your life. Notice what Paul also said in Romans 16:17-18. It states:

I appeal to you, brothers, to watch out for those who cause divisions and create obstacles contrary to the doctrine that you have been taught; avoid them. For such persons do not serve our Lord Christ, but their own appetites, and by smooth talk and flattery they deceive the hearts of the naive.”

Your intentions may be good, but God does not call you to endlessly engage in theological debates with people who simply are rejecting God’s truth. If you are dating someone, for example, who seemed to be a Christian but then later on all they do is challenge your Christian beliefs with their own doubts, this is not the ingredients of a healthy dating relationship that leads to a healthy marriage.

So whether it be your friends, family, or anyone else, if this person is constantly challenging you and putting you down because of your Christian beliefs that they do not hold, eventually you have to put your own heart first (Proverbs 4:23) and remove this person from your life.

**XIV. Five Prayers That Will Help You Meet The Right Person**
1. “Lord, help me to pray for a spouse with pure motives.”

Before we can get into praying specifically about our desire for a Christian husband or wife, the first thing we need to do is recognize that not all prayers have equal power. Why does God answer some prayers and not others? There’s many layers to this question, but one biblical answer is that God does not answer prayers that are based in an impure motive. Notice what James 4:2-3 (NIV) states:

You do not have because you do not ask God. When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.”

So if you want to increase the power of your prayers for a spouse, the first step is to pray about the motives of your prayers. Confess any sin to God, repent of false motives, and then ask God for a Christian spouse so you can glorify him with your future marriage.

2. “Lord, please mature me and my future spouse so we are ready to meet, date, and get married in a way that is pleasing to you.”

Another common reason God often withholds a good thing that we really want, like a godly marriage, is because there is some sort of character defect in us that would cause us to misuse this blessing or hurt the person we are in a relationship with. For example, if you have a severe sexual addiction, this would prevent you from living in the light if you were to meet the one God has for you; thus it is possible that God is delaying your marriage until you are ready to live without this secret sin in your life.

It is also possible that the person God wants you to marry is living in sin right now and thus they are not ready to be in a godly marriage. Therefore, it is wise to pray for your maturity and your future spouse’s maturity. Ask the Lord to make you both ready to meet each other. As Psalm 139:23-24 (NIV) states:

Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.”

3. “Lord, please help my future spouse and me to get out of any unhealthy relationships and to avoid unhealthy relationships.”

One of the biggest barriers preventing many Christian singles from meeting the one God has for them is that they are in a relationship with someone God does not want them with. When you refuse to let go of the plastic diamond you found yourself, you will be unable to open your hand to receive the real diamond God wants to give you.

Dating multiple people before you meet your future spouse is not a sin. However, when you sin and get attached to people you are not going to marry, it not only prevents you from meeting the
one God does have for you, it will also cause you to need to go through a period of sanctification and healing after this relationship, pushing back your marriage timeline even further. Sadly, many people waste prime years of their life in bad relationships and then struggle to meet a godly spouse later in life. Nothing is impossible with God, but the sooner you get out of a bad relationship the sooner God can mature you and prepare you for the relationship he may want to give you. You or your future spouse could be delaying meeting one another by being in unhealthy relationships with other people; therefore, pray for both yourself and your future spouse so you can have the strength to repent quickly if this is happening and so you can also avoid this from happening again in the future.

4. “Lord, what action steps do you want me to take so I can meet the one you have for me to marry?”

The path to marriage is not a rigid formula. Some people date and marry young while others date and marry later in life. Some people date and marry a friend while others meet their future spouse on a blind date. Some people will meet their future spouse serving at church while others will meet their future spouse through online dating. There is no right or wrong way to meet your future spouse as long as you are not breaking any clear commands in the Bible. The key is to do what God is leading you to do individually. Some people refuse to online date, but perhaps God is waiting for you to try it because that is how he wants to bless you with a spouse. Some people refuse to stop online dating, but perhaps God is telling you to stop looking so hard so he can bring the right person into your life in a different way. As Proverbs 3:5-6 states:

Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.”

5. “Lord, please help me to meet the person you want me to marry so I can glorify you in marriage one day.”

I encourage you to pray many other prayers that we did not cover in this video, but the main encouragement I would want to leave you with is that you really do pray. The first step is to always remember to pray. So if you have a desire to honor the Lord in a godly marriage one day, we don’t need to overcomplicate this. Start by simply pouring your heart out to God. Just ask him for what you desire. For as 1 Thessalonians 5:16-17 states:
Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

XV. Four Things God Will Do When He Want You To Trust Him More

1. If You Freak Out and Kind of Lose Your Mind Anytime There Is a Relationship Opportunity in Your Life, This Is a Good Sign God Is Leading You to Trust Him More

Sometimes when we want something too badly, we end up putting so much pressure on ourselves that we begin to act in ways that are uncharacteristic. It’s very similar to an athlete who is playing in the championship game. When she is at practice with her teammates and no one else is watching, she will often perform at her best because there is very little pressure on her. But when there are thousands of people in the stands and a championship is on the line, the pressure may cause her to perform less than ideal. So if you have a pattern of getting way too worked up anytime there is a possibility of you getting into a relationship, this could be a sign that God is leading you to put less pressure on yourself and to trust him more.

2. If You Have a History of Either Scaring People Away or Bailing Before the Relationship Even Really Started, This Could Be a Sign God Is Leading You to Trust Him More

Sometimes relationships just end quickly for a variety of other possibilities that are not your fault. If you feel led to end a relationship when it is just starting, then you should do that. But many times a relationship ends prematurely due to an overzealousness and passion. When someone feels like you are placing too much pressure on them too early in the relationship, they will often grow scared and distance themselves. On the flipside, sometimes this internal nervous energy is just too much to bear ourselves and thus we are the ones to end the relationship prematurely.
So if there is a pattern in your life of scaring people away or bailing yourself before the relationship even really starts, this could be a sign God is trying to tell you that you need to trust him more. For as Philippians 4:6-7 states:

... do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”

### 3. If You Feel Like You Are Over Spiritualizing the Process of Getting Into a Relationship and Under Valuing the Practical Wisdom Needed to Interact with the Opposite Sex, This Could Be a Sign God Is Leading You to Trust Him More

I do think the term “over spiritualize” can be misunderstood quite easily because it is impossible to focus on God too much. Far as we just read in Philippians 4:6, God calls us to pray about everything. So God would never call us to pray less or focus on him less. However, he could be calling us to take more practical and wise steps to receive the things we are asking for. One reason over spiritualizing relationships is a sign of wanting a relationship too much is because sometimes people want a marriage so bad that they fear messing it all up and so they feel like the only way to avoid messing things up is by letting God do everything for them. God doesn’t work this way. He will always include us in the process as well even though we are imperfect and will make mistakes. So if you feel paralyzed, this could be because you are not trusting God enough. Ironically, an abundance of trust will not manifest in waiting for God to do everything; rather, an abundance of trust will express itself in your belief that you are free to act even though you will not be perfect because God is sovereign and will still accomplish his will through you.

### 4. If You Have Big Swings Between Totally Shutting Down Towards Being in a Relationship and Trying Everything Possible to Be in a Relationship, This Could Be a Sign God Is Leading You to Trust Him More

Idolatry always manifests itself in the extremes. Someone who is idolizing the importance of food could struggle with extreme dieting or obesity. Someone who idolizes money could be struggling with spending too much or being too frugal. And someone who is idolizing relationships may manifest this through an extreme pursuit or through an extreme avoidance.
Most of the time people assume that relationship idols manifest when people relentlessly pursue a relationship. That can be the case, but it is just as possible to put a relationship on such a high pedestal that you completely avoid the opposite sex altogether. Perhaps the clearest sign of all this is when there is a combination of both expressions of relationship idolatry. So if you are continually swinging back and forth between the extremes of avoiding relationships and pursuing a relationship, this could be a sign that God is leading you to find a more balanced approach where you are content in Christ even if you remain single while also being open to a relationship if God brings someone into your life.