

Lesson 1 - Single and Satisfied

In recent years there has been considerable change in courtship practices, particularly in Europe and North America. As a result, there seems to be more single people than at any time in history! In fact, finding a spouse seems to be more difficult than ever before.

Culture, dating practices, and economic factors are three of many suggestions as to why this is so. Yet it seems that many people who are single struggle with the possibility of never getting married and of course, many marriages are failing. Is it better not to be married? Is it possible to be happily single? There are so many issues concerning singleness that it would be impossible to deal with them all in one lesson. Therefore in this lesson we are going to consider 3 questions that every single Christian should ask.



What kind of single are you?

Knowing the type of person that you are and the circumstances that you face are very important. On one occasion Jesus spoke of 3 types of singles:

*For there are different reasons why men cannot marry: some, because they were **born that way**; others, because **men made them that way**; and others do not marry **for the sake of the Kingdom of heaven**. Let him who can accept this teaching do so."*

Matthew 19:12 (Good News Bible)

What do you think Jesus meant by these?

When dealing with marriage and divorce, Paul mentioned 3 types of single persons:

*"...But I say to the **unmarried** and to the **widows**: It is good for them if they remain even as I am..."*

*"...Now concerning **virgins**: I have no commandment from the Lord; yet I give judgment as one whom the Lord in His mercy has made trustworthy..."*

1 Corinthians 7:8, 25

What do you think Paul meant when he used these terms?

Are you ready to be married?

Have you ever heard the saying "Out of the frying pan and into the fire?" Many people have found a partner and discovered that things became worse! John, Mary, Margaret and Bill are 4 people who were not ready for marriage. Can you tell me why?

John met Sally at a bar and was attracted by her beautiful body. They became lovers and eventually lived together for a while. When Sally became pregnant, John felt guilty and quickly married her. After a year, John discovered that he did not really know his wife and ended up leaving her.

At 19, Mary was having problems at home and did not like the restrictions that her parents were putting on her. She also felt unloved by her father, who seemed to show little affection toward her. When 25 year old Jade told her that he loved her, she was swept off her feet and after a month long romance, they ran away and were quickly married! She soon found that Jade was just like her father and decided to run away after a turbulent 3 years of marriage.

Margaret felt that at 35 she would never get married and would end up by herself for the rest of her life. Because she felt that her chances were almost over, she said yes to Henry, who had a decent job and seemed to be a nice man. They discovered that they had little in common and Margaret eventually felt lonelier than ever.

Bill had great dreams of eventually getting married. The thought of a woman who loved him dearly and was willing to look after him just as his mother did brought him great comfort. He eventually married Sylvia and found himself very disappointed shortly after his honeymoon! She could not cook, clean, wash or sew anything like he knew back home.



Can you deal with not being married?

This for many is a very difficult question. What if I never get married? For a Christian, the truth of the matter is that God must be our all in all! Here are a few things that we must understand:

1. When we place our life in His hands, then we know that He will give us what is best for us.

Delight yourself also in the LORD, And He shall give you the desires of your heart.

Psalm 37:4

The LORD is near to all who call upon Him, To all who call upon Him in truth. He will fulfill the desire of those who fear Him; He also will hear their cry and save them.

Psalm 145:18, 19

2. Everything that happens to us, even the pains associated with singleness, will ultimately do us good if we really love God.

And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.

Romans 8:28

3. In everything we must put God first. When we do, then He will take care of the rest.

"No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.

Matthew 6:24

But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

Matthew 6:33

Conclusion

Getting married is not the "be all and end all". Drawing near to Jesus is the only real way to satisfaction, whether married, single, or in any state.

Lesson 2 - Marriage (part 1)

Perhaps as you are sitting in your chair preparing for this lesson questions began to come to you mind. Why are we discussing this topic? Shouldn't this be something that comes up in the couples classes? Some may feel that the subject of marriage is irrelevant to them because they are unmarried with no plans to become married. Here is our first question for discussion: Why should Christians study marriage?



Here are three reasons why Christians should have great understanding of marriage:

1. Marriage is the foundation of the family

The whole of human society is based on the family, and the basis of the family is marriage. Before there were governments, nations, businesses, schools or churches, there was the family, and the family begins with marriage. Not long after God created the first man, he created a helper for him and instituted marriage.

And the LORD God said, "It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him." Out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to Adam to see what he would call them. And whatever Adam called each living creature, that was its name. So Adam gave names to all cattle, to the birds of the air, and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper comparable to him. And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam, and he slept; and He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh in its place. Then the rib which the LORD God had taken from man He made into a woman, and He brought her to the man. And Adam said: "This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; She shall be called Woman, Because she was taken out of Man." Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.

Genesis 2: 18-24

In marriage we learn our **responsibilities** to each other and we live out our **commitments** to each other. These two concepts are among the most important in life and in these days often neglected. Couples soon learn that they can no longer live for themselves because they have each other to consider. Misunderstandings are inevitable in any relationship, and since two people are

more intimately acquainted with each other in marriage than in any other relationship it is inevitable that misunderstandings will occur. It's no wonder that the devil has worked so hard to undo the biblical concepts of marriage. As our marriages go, so goes our society.

2. Marriage is the foundation of the Church!

The bible compares the relationship of a husband and wife to that of Christ and His church.



...Submitting to one another in the fear of God. Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Saviour of the body. Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything. Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish. So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord does the church. For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones. "FOR THIS REASON A MAN SHALL LEAVE HIS FATHER AND MOTHER AND BE JOINED TO HIS WIFE, AND THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH." This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church. Nevertheless let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.

Ephesians 5: 21-33

The relationship between husband and wife is a picture of the relationship between Christ and His Church. Christian marriages should be an example to the world of submission, respect, commitment and genuine love.

The health of a church has a lot to do with the health of the marriages in the church. This is particularly true of the leaders in the church. This is why the bible says that an elder of a church must be:

...One who rules his own house well, having his children in submission with all reverence (for if a man does not know how to rule his own house, how will he take care of the church of God?);

1 Timothy 3:4, 5

Also, of deacons it says:

Let deacons be the husbands of one wife, ruling their children and their own houses well.

1 Timothy 3:12

3. Marriage affects us all!

No matter what your circumstances, there are two ways that you will certainly be affected by marriage:

- Your experience of marriage (or lack of it) through your own family has an effect on you. For example, quarrelling parents can put off their children for life!
- Sooner or later you will probably get involved with someone who is struggling in their marriage. Understanding what God intends for marriage will help you to help others.

Conclusion

The foundation of our society and of our church is centred in the family and therefore in marriage. It is therefore important that we understand God's principles in marriage whatever our circumstances.

Lesson 3 - Marriage (part 2)

So many people are confused about the value and even relevance of marriage these days. It's been said that marriage is "just a piece of paper" and some argue that marriage may soon be irrelevant. Yet year after year couples are still tying the knot, and the bible seems to predict that this would continue right until the end of time. Perhaps the reason for the problems with modern marriages is that we have gotten away from what God intended marriage to be. What do you think?



What did God have in mind when he created marriage?

1. Not just *procreation* - babies can be produced without marriage. Although God intended children to be born within marriage God did not make marriage just as a means for us to have children.
 - Having no children does not make a couple unmarried
 - Having children does not make a couple married
2. Not just *sex* - couples have had sex without being married throughout history. Although God intended sex to be part of marriage God did not make sex as the primary means for marriage. Marriage and sex are related, but they are not the same:
 - The absence of sex will not make a couple un-married
 - Sex before marriage does not make a couple married

God made marriage so that man can **rule the earth in partnership**. Through this relationship husband and wife would become "one flesh" and together rule the earth.

*Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let **them** have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and **subdue it; have dominion** over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."*

Genesis 1:26-28

The covenant of marriage is the foundation of the family. It is through families that our society is formed and strengthened. Psalm 28 typifies God's plan for marriage and families.



*Blessed is every one who fears the LORD, Who walks in His ways. When you eat the labour of your hands, You shall be happy, and it shall be well with you. Your **wife** shall be like a fruitful vine In the very heart of your house, Your **children** like olive plants All around your table. Behold, thus shall the man be blessed who fears the LORD. The LORD bless you out of Zion, And may you see the good of Jerusalem All the days of your life. Yes, may you see your **children's children**. Peace be upon Israel!*

Psalm 128

There are a few things in this passage that are quite significant:

- The psalm is addressed to the husband, who is the head of the home.
- There is happiness and blessing for those who fear the Lord.
- There is a wife who is fruitful in the centre of the home.
- The children are fruitful and strong, like olive plants.
- Children's children signify longevity and prosperity.

Dr. Myles Munroe, in his book called the purpose and power of love and marriage described marriage this way:

"Marriage is a God-ordained institution, a lifelong relationship between one man and one woman. Over time and under the heat and pressure of life, two people under the covenant of marriage come together and are lost in each other to the point where it becomes impossible to tell where one leaves and the other begins. Marriage is a process, a fusion of two distinct and different elements into one - a sparkling jewel of love, faithfulness, and commitment that shines brightly in a world of short-loved fads and impermanence."

Conclusion

So far we've learned that marriage is the foundation of society and that God's intention from the beginning was for man to rule the earth in partnership. But the big question is: How can we develop good marriage? We will consider this in our next lesson.

Lesson 4- Marriage (part 3)

Much time and energy is usually spent on what many feel is suppose to be the greatest day of their lives - their wedding day. The dress, the car, the photos, the church, the flowers, and the cake - I can go on and on. Unfortunately it seems that too often couples do not spend enough time on making their marriage work. Is it fate or luck that makes a good marriage or is there something that couples can do to make it good? What do you think?



Good marriages develop over time - give it a chance!

Anything that is worth something takes time to develop. One of the biggest problems that I have discovered with new couples is that they often are ready to quit too soon! It is vital to understand that marriage is more of a marathon than a sprint. If you stay with it until the end and avoid allowing anger to get the best of you, you will be blessed in the long run.

The end of a thing is better than its beginning; the patient in spirit is better than the proud in spirit. Do not hasten in your spirit to be angry, for anger rests in the bosom of fools. Do not say, "Why were the former days better than these?" For you do not inquire wisely concerning this.

Ecclesiastes 7:8-10

Good marriages are strengthened through pressure - let pressure do its work! Another misconception about marriage is that good couples never argue or go through problems. The fact is that all couples go through problems and all of them disagree and go through misunderstandings from time to time. This is the nature of all relationships! If you think that it is not suppose to happen, when it happens you will be most disappointed and caught of guard. The reality is that God allows couples to go through different problems in order to *strengthen* their relationship. If you can have a real knock down drag out problem and overcome it, your relationship becomes more solid. If your spouse sees your worst and is still committed to you, not only does it give you a sense of security and safety, but it can also motivate you to do better.

And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance, character; and

character, hope. Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.
Romans 5:3-5

Good marriages need patience and adjustment - work at it!

Good marriages don't just happen. You have to work at it! When difficulties arise it is important to see them as opportunities for growth rather than simple disappointments. Is the glass half empty or half full? It all depends on how you look at it.

My brothers, count it all joy when you fall into different kinds of temptations, knowing that the trying of your faith works patience. But let patience have its perfect work, so that you may be perfect and entire, lacking nothing. If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.
James 1: 2-5

"Marriage Ability" Traits

Another reason why many marriages are failing is due to a lack of godly character in couples. Dr. Myles Munroe, in his book called "The Purpose and Power of Love & Marriage" cited what he called "Marriage Ability" traits which I think that every couple should attempt to develop. I also believe that anyone who is considering getting married in the future should look for these traits in a potential spouse. Take a few minutes to consider each of these in group discussion.

- **Adaptability** - the ability to adapt to changing conditions.
- **Empathy** - sensitivity to the needs, hurts and desires of one's spouse.
- **The Ability to Work Through Problems** - not problem solving, since problems cannot always be solved. This is being committed to dealing with them instead of walking away from them.
- **The Ability to Give and Receive Love** - this involves expressing true feelings and showing emotion. This is particularly difficult with men.
- **Emotional Stability** - this means being able to control our emotions and not allowing them to run away with us. It also means that we accept responsibility for our feelings, words and actions
- **Ability to Communicate** - the ability to make sure that your spouse doesn't just hear what you say, but understands what you mean. It also involves listening to and understanding your partner.
- **Similarities Between one Another** - there should be some common meeting ground between couples.
- **Similar Family Backgrounds** - not absolutely necessary, but helpful whenever possible.

Here are some words that are not often understood correctly or used properly when it comes to marriage, yet they are pillars in any relationship. Take a few minutes to discuss these together.

Love - when we say love, we are not talking about an emotion or feeling. Love is a decision of the will. You choose to love. Emotion and attraction may come and go, but true love is committed to every day.

Trust - if a couple are to have a long-lasting marriage they must very quickly establish trust between one another. If you cannot trust your partner your marriage is on a slippery slope.

Truth - is the basis of trust. Truth includes *transparency* and *honesty*. A person who is transparent has nothing to hide. A person who is honest will be an open person. These characteristics will establish and develop trust.

Faithfulness - a person who is faithful will be true to their word. They will do what they say and say what they do. Faithfulness is related to truth and also establishes trust.

Commitment - is what makes marriage much more than a piece of paper. When a person is committed they are in for the long haul. Commitment brings security in a relationship. Anyone who is considering divorce has usually lost their sense of commitment.

Acceptance - this happens when couples appreciate who and what their partners really are and are not trying to make them into something else.

Respect - means that there is high esteem one toward another. When one partner loses respect for the other, behaviour changes considerably.

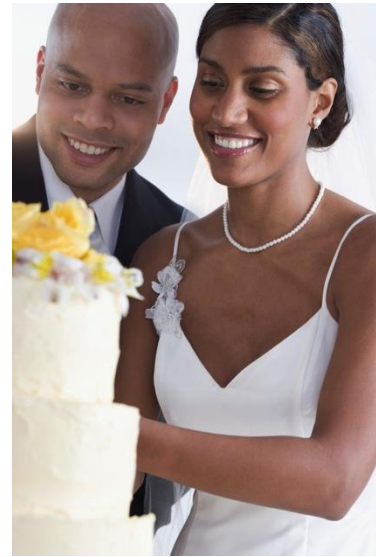
Submission - is to give up our own rights and to not insist on having things our own way. Submission is greater than compromise because it actually prefers the other. Submission is more than giving and taking. The bible teaches that we are to submit to one another in the fear of God.

Conclusion

Good marriages take time. They require patience, strength of character, and are made stronger through trials. Give it a bit of time, put in a bit of work, and you will reap great rewards. (Psalm 128)

Lesson 5: How to Find the Right Spouse

One of the most important decisions that a person will ever make is the decision to marry someone. It is also one of the most difficult decisions to make! Are there any good men or women out there? How do I know when I have found one or where to find one? How do I really know that I am ready myself to get married? In this lesson we will not be able to answer every question, but we can look at a few things that can help.



Three important things to consider:

1. Am I ready to get married?

We looked at this question in our earlier lesson called "Single and Satisfied." However, here are a few questions that must be answered:

a. Are you prepared to meet the needs of your spouse rather than looking for someone to meet your needs?

i. Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

1 Corinthians 13:4-7

ii. Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others

Philippians 2:3, 4

b. Are you finding contentment in Jesus or do you only think that you will be really happy when you are finally married?

i. But this I say, brethren, the time is short, so that from now on even those who have wives should be as though they had none, those who weep as though they did not weep, those who rejoice as though they did not rejoice, those who buy as though they did not possess, and those who use

this world as not misusing it. For the form of this world is passing away.

1 Corinthians 7: 29-31

ii. Now godliness with contentment is great gain.

1 Timothy 6:6

c. What does the group think it takes for a person to be ready to be married?

2. What are your criteria?

- a. In other words, what type of person are you looking for? Someone once said "He who aims at nothing is likely to hit it!" Many people spend hours considering the type of car they want to buy and often months choosing the house of their dreams. Yet when it comes to marriage it seems that many people do not even think about what they want in a future spouse. What type of personality do you think would suit you? What things should you have in common? Would your future partner need to like children? Are they a clean person, or does it matter? What about finance, family and even things like cooking?
- b. Take a moment to consider the type of things that the group thinks would be essential in a husband or wife.



3. Where are you looking?

- a. If you want a good moral sincere person as a partner, why would you go to a bad immoral place where the people are false and phoney? The places that you look are going to have a bearing on the people that you find. Gamblers are at casinos, people who are athletic usually hang around the gym and intellectuals are usually found at universities.
- b. Where does the group think would be a good place to find a husband or wife?

Conclusion

Finding the right person to marry is something that should be prayerfully considered. However, there are things that we can do as well as pray. We can allow God to develop our character so that we can be a good husband or wife. We can also begin to consider the type of person that we would want to spend the rest of our life with before we are blinded by the "love bug". If we also hang out in the right places we can expect to meet more of the right people to marry. These are a few things to consider; can you think of any more?

Lesson 6: Why Do Marriages Fail?

A ccording to the national divorce rate statistics for England and Wales¹, the estimated percentage of marriages ending in divorce is 42%. Around half of these divorces are expected to occur in the first 10 years of marriage. Although in recent years the divorce rate has decreased, divorce is still extremely high and the statistics are probably distorted by the fact that more couples are living together than ever before. Here are a few figures from the office for National Statistics:²

- In 2015 there were 239,020 weddings in the UK
- There were 101,055 divorces in 2015, which means that almost half as many people were divorced as were married that year.
- Marriages which ended in divorce were lasting - on average - slightly longer at 11.9 years in 2015, compared to 11.5 years in 2004.
- The average (mean) age at divorce for men was 45.9 years and 43.5 years for women, compared to 42.7 and 40.2 years in 2004.
- The divorce rate was highest among both men and women aged 40 to 44
- Changes in behaviour and attitudes to divorce are considered to be an important factor behind the increase in divorce rates between the 1960s and the early 1990s. Also, the Divorce Reform Act 1969 came into effect in England and Wales on 1 January 1971, making it easier for couples to divorce upon separation - this caused a large increase in divorce rates in 1972.
- The majority of divorces of opposite sex couples in 2015 where a decree absolute was granted, were petitioned by the wife (62%). The most common grounds for divorce was unreasonable behaviour with 37% of all husbands and 52% of all wives petitioning for divorce on these grounds.



What would you say are some of the main reasons that people give for getting a divorce? Discuss this among yourselves.

¹ The year 2015 is the most recent statistic year available.

² Statistics are for opposite sex couples only.

Why Marriages Fail

Not all marriages fail for the same reason. Nor is there usually one reason for the breakdown of a particular marriage. Nevertheless, we hear some reasons more often than others. They are:

- Poor communication
- Financial problems
- A lack of commitment to the marriage
- A dramatic change in priorities
- Infidelity
- Mid-life crisis

There are other causes we see a lot, but not quite as often as those listed above. They are:

- Failed expectations or unmet needs
- Addictions and substance abuse
- Physical, sexual or emotional abuse
- Lack of conflict resolution skills
- Family problems
- Workaholism

Conclusion

Why is it important to consider why marriages fail? Because if we understand what causes marriages to fall we may be able to prevent it. If we are able to spot the signs of marriage failure early, we may be able to deal with the problems before they become insurmountable. In our next lesson we will consider what God thinks about divorce.

Lesson 7: Why Does God Hate Divorce?

The bible states very clearly that God hates divorce.

"For the LORD God of Israel says that He hates divorce..."

Malachi 2:16

But the big question is why? Is it because he hates people who disobey him? Is it because he wants to punish anyone who marries the wrong person? Before you read any further, discuss this question among yourselves: why do you think God hates divorce?



3 reasons why God hates divorce:

God hates divorce because it hurts the people He loves. In scripture, when the very first marriage was instituted, we read this amazing statement:

"Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh."

Genesis 2:24

In this verse the phrase "be joined" means to stick to, a bit like glue. Have you ever tried to separate two pieces of paper that have been glued together? Not only is it very difficult, but usually both pieces of paper become damaged. When two people get a divorce, you can expect that there will always be damage to both persons and to anyone who may be connected to the couple. This is what God hates! Here are a few things that you should know and understand before you consider getting a divorce:

- ***The process is long and difficult*** - you will probably end up in a difficult legal and emotional roller coaster that will take a lot of your time and energy.
- ***The result is devastating*** - unless you are involved in some kind of affair (which has its own problems), you will usually end up facing all the issues of life alone.
- ***Your partner may never be entirely out of your life*** - especially if you have children.

- **You may experience the pain of bereavement-** which is most difficult when your spouse is still alive.
- **There are many emotional issues to deal with** - including guilt, self-worth, loneliness and security issues.
- **Divorce will affect your finances** - including legal fees and support issues. You will have to divide property and possessions and face the issues of self support.

God hates divorce because it destroys the institution of marriage. In lesson 2 (Marriage part 1) we learned that marriage is the foundation of the family, the church and society. It is where we learn to deal with conflict and live out our responsibilities and commitments. When we use the term institution we are referring to the act of establishment. In other words, if marriage is the foundation on which society is established, then divorce is the destruction of that foundation. As marriages fail, families are destroyed. Failed marriages in churches tear at the foundations of those churches. One of the most considerable contributing factors to moral decay in western society is the breakdown of marriages.

God hates divorce because it has a negative effect on the children. Paul made this statement on the subject of divorce concerning the children:

*But to the rest I, not the Lord, say: If any brother has a wife who does not believe, and she is willing to live with him, let him not divorce her. And a woman who has a husband who does not believe, if he is willing to live with her, let her not divorce him. For the unbelieving husband is sanctified by the wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified by the husband; **otherwise your children would be unclean, but now they are holy.***

1 Corinthians 7:12-14



Paul seems to say that staying together can have a positive effect on the children. We know that God expects His children to produce "godly offspring" (Malachi 2:15). One of the reasons why he chose Abraham was because God knew that he would command his children to keep the way of the LORD (Genesis 18:19). On the other hand statistics show that the children in divorced home are much less likely to be happily married than children in families with happy

marriages. Here is a quote from "Experiments in Living: The Fatherless Family"
By Rebecca O'Neill; Sept. 2002:

For the best part of thirty years we have been conducting a vast experiment with the family, and now the results are in: the decline of the two-parent, married-couple family has resulted in poverty, ill-health, educational failure, unhappiness, anti-social behaviour, isolation and social exclusion for thousands of women, men and children.

Conclusion

Does God hate divorced people? Definitely not! God hates divorce because of what it does to the people that He loves. In our next lesson we will consider how to avoid divorce.

How Much Do You Remember?

1. **In Matthew 19:12 Jesus spoke of 3 types of singles. They are:**
 - a. Divorced, widowed, never married
 - b. Born that way, men made them that way, for the sake of the kingdom of heaven
 - c. Physical defect, Traumatic experienced, choice
 2. **In 1 Corinthians 7, Paul spoke of 3 types of singles. They are:**
 - a. Unmarried, widows, virgins
 - b. Emasculated, made by men, born that way
 - c. Looking to be married, not looking to be married, unsure about being married
 3. **What should be the right response of the single Christian who is facing the possibility of never getting married?**
 - a. God would never want me to be unhappy and therefore has someone for me very soon.
 - b. When I put God first, He will give me what is best for me, even if it means never getting married.
 - c. Sin separates me from God. Therefore remove the sin from my life and God will soon give me a partner.
 4. **Marriage is the foundation of the family because:**
 - a. In marriage we learn our responsibilities to each other and live out our commitments to each other.
 - b. God wants everyone to be married.
 - c. Marriage is the way that families are created.
 5. **The bible compares the relationship of a husband and wife to:**
 - a. The Vine and the branches
 - b. Christ and His church
 - c. The old and new Wine
 6. **What did God have in mind when he created marriage?**
 - a. Procreation
 - b. Sexual fulfilment
 - c. Man ruling the earth in partnership
 7. **Good marriages:**
 - a. Usually come after the 7th year
 - b. Happen between 10 to 15 years
 - c. Develop over time
 8. **Good marriages:**
 - a. Are strengthened through pressure
 - b. Can be destroyed through pressure
 - c. Are not effected by pressure
 9. **Good marriages need patience and adjustment**
 - a. True
 - b. False
- In marriage:**

- 10. Love is all about emotions and feelings**
- a. True
 - b. False
 - c. When God gives them a partner from which they find contentment
- 11. Acceptance happens when one partner changes for the sake of the other**
- a. True
 - b. False
- 12. Commitment does not bring security in a relationship**
- a. True
 - b. False
- 13. Submission is greater than compromise because it is more than giving and taking**
- a. True
 - b. False
- 14. Truth is the basis of trust. A person who is transparent has nothing to hide**
- a. True
 - b. False
- 15. I know that a person is ready to be married:**
- a. When they are prepared to meet the needs of their partner instead of looking for someone to meet their own needs
 - b. When they will not allow anyone to get in the way of their goals or ambitions
 - c. When they are assertive in their relationship
- 16. I know that a person is ready to be married:**
- a. When they find contentment in Jesus
 - b. When their total happiness is in and through their partner
- 17. All Christian marriages fail for the same basic reasons: sin**
- a. True
 - b. False
- 18. Why does God hate divorce?**
- a. Because he hates people who disobey him
 - b. Because he wants to punish anyone who marries the wrong person
 - c. Because it hurts the people he loves
- 19. Divorce destroys the institution of marriage**
- a. True
 - b. False
- 20. Statistics show that divorce does not have a lasting impact on children**
- a. True
 - b. False