A BIBLICAL VIEW OF SINGLENESS

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LIES BELIEVED

Having served with WBL for just one year, I've been introduced to a wide array of working women. From seemingly intrepid entrepreneurs juggling the many facets of running a business while navigating the work-home balance to seasoned, retired businesswomen overpouring with welcomed advice and graciousness, I have been so inspired by the women this ministry has brought my way.

As WBL seeks to minister faithfully to the diverse community of women who are hungry for personal connection and nourishment from God's Word, 2025 has ushered an increased number of single, working women into WBL's fold, drawing our attention more specifically to these lovely and gifted women.

This is not to say that our eyes have been diverted from WBL's broader ministry endeavor- to point all women to Christ and encourage them in their faith so they can confidently live out their calling in the workplace and world for God's glory; but, we desire specifically to value the single woman in our midst because we have so acutely witnessed a lie being sold to her by the world and even by well-meaning, fellow followers of Christ: that real, purposeful womanhood is "achieved" *only* when marriage is achieved.

With this lie in the back of far too many single women's minds, it can be tempting to put one's life on pause and simply wait, frozen in place until a future husband arrives. And if that future husband never does appear, another lie takes hold infecting the minds and hearts of single women: that they have missed out on God's intention for them as women.

BIBLICAL TRUTH

Given the biblical centrality of marriage and family, it is, of course, worth mentioning that our intent is not to glorify singleness in a manner that neglects the sacred calling of marriage. Instead, it is to remind single women, as well as those married, that singleness is not a problem to be solved and to offer a more positive, biblical outlook and responses.

The idea that true, purposeful womanhood begins at marriage is a farce that twists and warps the grand scope of who God has created women to be. Yes, God's Word emphasizes the importance of wifehood and motherhood and these are indeed good aspects of womanhood; however, these are not the only good fruits that women can bear. Such belittles the significance of unmarried women and widows. While God designed women to be wives and mothers, more broadly, He designed women to build community and help others in ways that advance His kingdom (Genesis 2).

Scripture abounds in examples of women fulfilling their God-given purposes in every season- whether single, married, or widowed. To name just a few- Rachel, while single, served her family as a shepherdess (Genesis 29:6). While married, Deborah, the prophetess, served the nation of Israel as a judge (Judges 4:4-10). Ruth, widowed and in the face of great loss, gave aid to her mother-in-law, providing for both of their sustenance through outdoor labor (Ruth 1:4-2:23).

Time would fail me to tell of Anna- the widowed prophetess who advanced God's kingdom by proclaiming the good news of the Messiah, or the ministries of Mary and Martha- who are not recorded as having husbands- as they served Christ, let alone early church pillars of the faith like Dorcas, Priscilla, Phoebe. It should be of great encouragement that Scripture offers a refreshingly wide scope of women across all seasons of life engaged in a diverse array of kingdom-building activities.

While marriage and family represent an important sphere of kingdom-building endeavors for women and are commendable (1 Cor. 7), earthly marriage is not the ultimate good of a fulfilled, complete human life. Rather, God is *the ultimate good in every stage* and knowing and walking with Him is paramount. Thus, unmarried women must remind themselves daily that indefinite seasons of singleness do not and should not beget indefinite seasons of unfruitfulness in the kingdom of God.

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Yet, while many single women do indeed see the potential fruitfulness of their current single status, the second lie can still linger- that in not marrying, they have somehow missed out on God's intention for them as women. Such a view is adopted when a distored, small view of God's sovereignty is espoused. Instead, we should remind ourselves that single women are not single by accident, and they are not missing out on God's best by remaining single. No amount of personal initiative or lack thereof on their part for a spouse is going to thwart God's good plans for their lives. As long as these women are walking with the Lord, they are not missing out on anything that He sovereignly knows is currently right for them.

NEXT STEPS

So, what does this mean? I would commend all single women to cast off an impoverished view of womanhood that esteems marriage and childbearing (though both inherently good gifts given by God) as the highest achievable good over that of personal faithfulness and obedience before the Lord. While uprooting the lies sold to single women and unearthing scriptural truth about womanhood should be a great comfort, living according to these truths is hard to achieve apart from involvement in the local church.

If I can commend anything further to the single women of WBL- and to all women more broadly- it would be to attend a local church that demands you live your life seriously in accord with the truths of God's Word. Ensure that you are in a church that takes you just as seriously as the Lord takes you seriously. Be wary of a church that neglects the intellectual needs of women with superficial, experience-based, biblically weak instruction; rather. Instead, find a church that sees the need for Christian women to take *all seasons of life seriously* and seeks to nourish them through robust teaching so that you can wisely counter the many lies thrown your way.

To those who are married and in the church, consider how you view the single woman in the pew ahead or behind you- invite her into your family and see her as Christ sees her as one wholly contributing to the advancement of His Kingdom.

Sources

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