



# SACRED RELATIONSHIPS

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# SACRED SINGLENESS

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May he strengthen your hearts so that you will be blameless and holy in the presence of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus comes with all his holy ones. As for other matters, brothers and sisters, we instructed you how to live in order to please God, as in fact you are living. Now we ask you and urge you in the Lord Jesus to do this more and more. For you know what instructions we gave you by the authority of the Lord Jesus. It is God's will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality; that each of you should learn to control your own body in a way that is holy and honorable, not in passionate lust like the pagans, who do not know God; and that in this matter no one should wrong or take advantage of a brother or sister.

1 Thessalonians 3:13-4:10



The Lord will punish all those who commit such sins, as we told you and warned you before. For God did not call us to be impure, but to live a holy life. Therefore, anyone who rejects this instruction does not reject a human being but God, the very God who gives you his Holy Spirit. Now about your love for one another we do not need to write to you, for you yourselves have been taught by God to love each other. And in fact, you do love all the brothers and sisters throughout Macedonia. Yet we urge you, dear friends, to do so more and more.

1 Thessalonians 3:13-4:10



1. Singleness in the church should be **STRONG** rather than soiled
2. Singleness in the church should be **SACRED** rather than secular
3. Singleness in the church should be **SAFE** rather than cynical
4. Singleness in the church should be **SUPPORTIVE** rather than separate



# **SINGLENES IN THE CHURCH SHOULD BE STRONG RATHER THAN SOILED**

May he strengthen your hearts so that you will be blameless and holy in the presence of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus comes with all his holy ones.

1 Thessalonians 3:13



**STRONG:** To be made firm and stable. To be put into a favorable position.



A strong and stable single will make a blessing of a spouse.

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Satan uses sexual immorality to soil and destabilize us.

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# **PORNOGRAPHY IS DESIGNED TO SOIL US AND OUR RELATIONSHIPS**

1. Men who use pornography have a diminished interest in relationships and marriage because they are caught in a fantasy world.
2. Men who view pornography tend to suffer socially because they are accustomed to being alone and isolated.



Those who work their land will have abundant food,  
but those who chase fantasies will have their fill of  
poverty.

Proverbs 28:19



# **SINGLENES IN THE CHURCH SHOULD BE SACRED RATHER THAN SECULAR**

It is God's will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality; That each of you should learn to control your own body in a way that is holy and honorable, not in passionate lust like the pagans, who do not know God; And that in this matter no one should wrong or take advantage of a brother or sister. The Lord will punish all those who commit such sins, as we told you and warned Lord will punish all those who commit such sins, as we told you and warned you before.

1 Thessalonians 4:3-6



# **Sanctified means to be set apart and sacred to God**

When a person is sanctified they are set apart for God and they trust that every aspect of their life has been set apart including who their spouse will be.



The steps of a man are established by the Lord, when he  
delights in his way.

Psalms 37:23



# Consumer vs. Covenant Relationship

A. Consumer relationship: “You adjust to me or I’m out of here.”

- Always marketing yourself

B. Covenant relationship: “I’ll adjust to you because I made a promise.”

- Based on commitment

- Tim Keller



# **SINGLENES IN THE CHURCH SHOULD BE SAFE RATHER THAN CYNICAL**

Not in passionate lust like the pagans, who do not know God; and that in this matter no one should wrong or take advantage of a brother or sister. The Lord will punish all those who commit such sins, as we told you and warned you before.

1 Thessalonians 4:5-6



Safe means: “I won’t take advantage of another person and I know I won’t be taken advantage of either.”



# **Biblical Singleness**

Biblical singleness creates a safe environment marked by:

Honesty  
Respect  
Service



# **SINGLENES IN THE CHURCH SHOULD BE SUPPORTIVE RATHER THAN SEPARATE**

Now about your love for one another we do not need to write to you, for you yourselves have been taught by God to love each other. And in fact, you do love all the brothers and sisters throughout Macedonia.

1 Thessalonians 4:9-10



To be supportive is to see someone of the opposite sex as a brother or sister, before seeing them as a prospective spouse.