

## Complete in Christ

How “complete” are you in life? How whole do you feel? In times of disappointment or crisis, you might think, I don’t have what it takes. . . . I can’t make it alone. Many assume they are not whole unless they are connected to someone else. Yet, if you’ve genuinely allowed Christ to come into your life as your personal Lord and Savior, the Bible says you are “filled in him” (Colossians 2:10). You are complete! You don’t need anyone or anything to complete you.

*“I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content.”  
(Philippians 4:11)*

*“Had any other condition been better for you than the one in which you find yourself, divine love would have placed you there.”*

—Charles Haddon Spurgeon

## Myths about Singleness

- **Myth:** “God’s best is marriage. Singleness is second best.”

**Truth:** According to Scripture, singleness is referred to as the preferred state that allows undivided devotion to the Lord.  
(1 Corinthians 7:8, 35)

- **Myth:** “All you need is a mate.”

**Truth:** The Lord will be your mate if your earthly mate chooses to leave. (Hosea 2:19–20)

- **Myth:** “After your mate dies, you are left incomplete and unfulfilled.”

**Truth:** As a Christian, you are given complete fullness in Christ even before your marriage.  
(Colossians 2:9–10)

- **Myth:** “Since God uses the family to build character, you will never become mature if you remain unmarried.”<sup>1</sup>

**Truth:** Your marital state does not determine maturity. When you became a believer, God took the responsibility to bring you to maturity.  
(Philippians 1:3, 5–6)

## Singles in Scripture

### Jesus

Following His Father's chosen path, Jesus grew to complete maturity and fulfilled God's unique purpose for His life. Jesus knew how to relate to all people in perfect love. (John 17:4)

### Paul

Paul used his singleness as a special gift that allowed him to carry out God's purposes. His zealous heart to serve the Lord resulted in a life that was considered by many to be second only to that of Christ in influencing others for the kingdom of God. (1 Corinthians 7:7)

### Lydia

Lydia was unmarried and had become a very competent businesswoman. She opened her home to establish the first church in Philippi, and it became an active church. (Acts 16:14–15)

### Elijah

Elijah was the most remarkable prophet of the Old Testament. His name, which means "Jehovah is my God," fits him perfectly. He became the most powerful and courageous reformer of his day. (1 Kings 18:15)

*"The LORD will fulfill his purpose for me;  
your steadfast love, O LORD, endures forever.  
Do not forsake the work of your hands."  
(Psalm 138:8)*

## Surface Causes of Discontentment with Singleness

### Parental Pressure

- parents' assumption that marriage is the only route to your happiness
- parents' intense desire for grandchildren

### Peer Pressure

- friends pushing you to make a commitment
- friends seeking to "match you up" with someone

### Professional Pressure

- professional attitudes that view a married employee as more stable and dependable
- professions that pay single men and women lower salaries

### Personal Pressure

- personal desire for children
- personal sexual desires
- personal fear of financial insecurity

## Key Verse to Memorize

*"His divine power has granted to us all things  
that pertain to life and godliness,  
through the knowledge of him who called us  
to his own glory and excellence."  
(2 Peter 1:3)*

## Key Passage to Read and Reread

### 1 Corinthians chapter 7

## God's Heart on Singleness

**Singleness** is a good state in which to be.  
(1 Corinthians 7:1)

**Singleness** is a gift from God.  
(1 Corinthians 7:7)

**Singleness** is a good state for widows.  
(1 Corinthians 7:8)

**Singleness** is the state in which to remain if separation occurs.  
(1 Corinthians 7:11)

**Singles** are less affected by crisis and worldly difficulties.  
(1 Corinthians 7:26)

**Singles** should not search for mates.  
(1 Corinthians 7:27)

**Singles** face less personal difficulty.  
(1 Corinthians 7:28)

**Singles** have fewer concerns.  
(1 Corinthians 7:32)

**Singles** can focus on pleasing the Lord.  
(1 Corinthians 7:32)

**Singles** can have undivided devotion to the Lord.  
(1 Corinthians 7:34–35)

**Singleness** can be the happier state.  
(1 Corinthians 7:40)

*"The unmarried man is anxious about the things of the  
Lord, how to please the Lord."  
(1 Corinthians 7:32)*

## Contentment

**C**onfess the difficulty—it is hard to give up the desires of your heart. (Jeremiah 10:23)

**O**vercome the “greener grass” mentality—don’t assume that the grass is greener on the other side. (1 Corinthians 7:28)

**N**ourish a heart of gratefulness. (1 Thessalonians 5:16–18)

**T**reasure your identity in Christ. (Colossians 3:3)

**E**xpect God to give you a ministry—God desires to use you in the lives of others. (Romans 12:4–17)

**N**urture a family of friends. (Proverbs 17:17)

**T**rust your future to God. (Matthew 6:33)

*“There is great gain in godliness  
with contentment.”  
(1 Timothy 6:6)*

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### Related Topics . . .

- Dating:  
*The Waiting Game*
- Divorce:  
*A New Beginning from Brokenness*
- Loneliness:  
*How to Be Alone but Not Lonely*
- Single Parenting:  
*Success with God as Your Partner*
- Widowhood:  
*Wisdom in a Wilderness*

1. Ron Lee Davis and James C. Denney, *The Healing Choice: Finding God’s Grace in Discouragement, Conflict, Mistreatment, Illness, Loss, Loneliness, Failure, Inferiority, Doubt and Fear* (Waco, TX: Word, 1986), 78.

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*Single and Satisfied.*

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