



13 MAR 2022 | PASTOR LINDSEY LUI | FOMO MARITALLY: HOW DOES WHOLENESS LOOK AS A SINGLE? | VARIOUS PASSAGES

SPIRITUAL OBJECTIVES

At the end of the sermon discussion, cell members will:

1. Recognise the importance of stewarding the gift of singleness or marriage.
2. Reflect on the importance of being family for one another.

SERMON SUMMARY

God's heart is always to bless us abundantly. We see God's heart and design for singleness and marriage through three passages.

1. Singleness is a Gift (*Charisma*). So is Marriage. ([1 Corinthians 7](#))
2. Singleness is Hard. So is Marriage. ([Matthew 19:10-12](#))
3. Singleness is for This Lifetime. So is Marriage. ([Matthew 22:29-30](#))

SERMON RECAP

For believers, FOMO means "If I obey God, I will miss out on something good." God's heart is always to bless us abundantly, whether we are single or married. When God blesses us, He gives us an abundant life and adds no sorrow to it ([Proverbs 10:22](#)). God's calling for singles is a call to fruitfulness, to impact and thrive in the season they are in.

"When we talk about Singleness, it does not mean it is lifelong for everyone, it does not mean it is going to be easy, it does not mean you are not open to marriage and you will never be lonely."
- **Christopher Yuen, Taiwanese-American author on Holy Sexuality**

We see God's heart and design for singleness and marriage through the three passages ([1 Corinthians 7](#), [Matthew 19:10-12](#) and [Matthew 22:29-30](#)). He desires for us to thrive in a community and to be a blessing in us and through us.

There are times where things do not work out as we have planned. We then ask the following questions: "What is God's purpose in this? How are we responding to the needs in and around us? How can I thrive?" For some, being single is a time of contentment. For others, it may be a time of frustration and even bitterness.



A 2020 census showed that more of us are staying single. Pastor Lindsey also encouraged us to consider what influences our desires – is it due to cultural influences or a Biblical conviction from God?

1. Singleness is a Gift (*Charisma*). So is Marriage. (1 Corinthians 7)

- “But each of you has your own gift from God; one has this gift, another has that.” (1 Corinthians 7:7)
- Paul sees that God has created us with passion - passion for life and relationships.
- A desire to be married is a beautiful thing and it is important to keep sight of God’s calling in our lives as we seek Him for these matters. For Christian singles, it is a season where one stays sexually pure as we recognise how our lives belong to God. However, to the pre-believer, singleness is different; where one has the freedom to do as they wish. It is a choice and commitment to stay sexually pure.
- The Christian single is “free from concern” (1 Corinthians 7:32) – this means that they have more time to devote to the Lord’s work. For those who are married, while they have concerns for their family, it is a gift given to them to build the family according to biblical foundations.
- He/she is “concerned about the Lord’s affairs” (1 Corinthians 7:34). As singles, may we not miss out on the work God wishes to do in the season of our lives. Are we focused on the Lord’s work? Do we have the right perspective on singleness or marriage?
- Singleness also prepares us for our future spouse. For those who desire to get married, seek for one according to Biblical principles.
- Both singles and married people need God’s grace to “live in a right way in undivided devotion to the Lord.” (1 Corinthians 7:35).

2. Singleness is Hard. So is Marriage. (Matthew 19:10-12)

- In this passage, the disciples were asking about divorce. Jesus shared how entering into a covenantal relationship such as marriage is one for a lifetime.
- But He (Jesus) said to them, “Not everyone can receive this saying, but only those to whom it is given” (Matthew 19:11). Jesus recognises how marriage is ordained by God.
- To be single is to be celibate (unmarried and committed to sexual abstinence). This is challenging because sexual sins are prevalent and addictive.
- Jesus Himself is a celibate. He never married or had sex, and yet He lived a fulfilling life. He calls us to guard against lust and immorality (Matthew 15:19-20; 5:27-28). Jesus recognises that we will also struggle with sexual immorality in our unfulfilled desires. We need to constantly surrender to God our hearts that may be proud and rebellious. We must surrender our passions to God and for Him to lead us. God is good and He does not withhold anything from us. Do we desire to make choices that fear and honour Him?
- We can manage without sex, but we are not designed to live without intimacy. Intimacy and sex, while often overlapping, are not identical, nor are they always concurrent.

3. Singleness is for This Lifetime. So is Marriage. ([Matthew 22:29-30](#))

- Singleness and marriage are temporal in light of eternity.
- Marriage on this earth mirrors God's love for the Church, in a way that will honour God.
- There may be struggles and mistakes in our life journey. For the married, it is to remain faithful to the covenantal relationship. For singles, it is to be faithful to sexual purity.
- The Christian single's unfulfilled desires point him/her to the deep longing which can only be met by Jesus. Likewise, the married people's unfulfilled desires (no perfect spouse) point him/her to Jesus.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. **God's heart is to bless us abundantly. He desires for us to recognise how we can only be truly satisfied in Him and to reflect Him in our community. As a cell, share a time where you learnt satisfaction in Christ through your season of singleness/marriage.** [10 mins]

Leader's Notes

This is a recap and reflect question for the cell to share about a lesson they learnt about being satisfied in Christ. Members can share about the lessons they learnt about God through this experience – how did it challenge the views they had about God and how was it shaped along the way?

[Resource: Intimacy with God – The Way to True Fulfilment by Focus on the Family](#)

Transition

God is the Giver of both the gifts of singlehood and marriage. Both of these gifts are blessings to believers. Therefore, how much more will we be satisfied in the Giver Himself? God is able to satisfy us more than the gifts He gives us. Therefore, we should seek satisfaction in Him.

2. **Be it single or married, both carry with it blessings and hardships. As a cell, share some ways we can live according to [1 Corinthians 7:35](#) in the current season of our lives.** [15 mins]

Leader's Notes

This is a recap and reflect question for members.

- For those who are single and desire to be married:
 - What are some areas of their lives that God is moulding them to be ready for marriage?
 - What are things they seek for in a spouse?
- For those who are happily single:
 - To share how “being free from concerns” enables them to serve?
 - How is God preparing them for their future spouse? How are they involving others around them?
- For those who are married:
 - How are they being moulded through marriage?
 - How they are partnering as a team to bless others?
- For either singles / married people to consider:
 - How can they serve God in the current season of their lives?

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- How can we encourage fellow believers as they honour God in their season of singleness / marriage?
 - What are their priorities and is it in line with the current stage / season of their lives (e.g. serving God in the marketplace, caring for their families, their elderly parents)?
 - How can we steward what we have been entrusted with?
 - How can we find satisfaction in Him and not on things that are temporal?

Transition

Even as we go through the different seasons of our lives, let us be reminded and encouraged that God is faithful and we can trust in Him for the things dear to our hearts.

- 3. Singleness and marriage are temporary. Our identities as His children last for eternity. As we round up this FOMO series, share how we as a family of God can be of support to one another as we seek His Kingdom together. [15 mins]**

Leader's Notes

We are God's family. As a cell, think of some ways we can look out for each other and encourage each other through our own challenges and victories – especially in the area of marriage and singleness. What are some ways we can be accountable to one another in sharing our fears, and pointing each other back to having a right view of God and perspective of things?

For singles – Perhaps, those who are married can include them in their family life (eg. Dinners, outings, etc)

For the married – Perhaps, the cell can set aside time for married couples to share among each other their struggles and victories during cell time.

Closing

We have come to the end of the FOMO series. As we reflect upon what we have learnt in the series, may we come bravely before God with our struggles and fears, and to allow Him to meet with us there. May we allow Him to renew our hearts and minds; to recognise His goodness, how He loves and provides for us and how He wishes for us to partner with Him to reach a world that has yet to know Him.



WORKS

Consider dividing the group into micro-groups for a deeper time of sharing as well as praying for the following items:

1. Sermon Application

- For us to allow God to give us wisdom in stewarding what we have, be it in the season of singleness or marriage
- For us to be the family of God to one another and be a blessing to those around us.

2. COVID-19 in Singapore

- Praise God's protection on our nation from the virus.
- Pray for God's strength on our nurses and healthcare workers as they manage the influx of cases.

3. War in Ukraine

- Pray for Russia and Ukraine to enter into peace negotiations.
- Pray for the safety of all Ukrainians especially the churches there.
- Pray for a swift end to the invasion.

4. Opportunities for Outreach

- Ask the Lord to grant you opportunities to reach out to a non-believing loved one, friend, or colleague this week as we seek to mature in Christlikeness.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. **RiverLife Podcast.** We are excited to launch a new resource – The RiverLife Podcast on Spotify. The RiverLife Podcast allows you to listen to RiverLife content anytime, anywhere! For a start, you will be able to catch up on all six sermons from our *Let The River Flow* sermon series. The link to go to is rlc.sg/podcast or simply search '**The RiverLife Podcast**' on Spotify.
2. **New Pulpit Series: *Heaven's Pulse, Our Calling*.** Our renewed vision for RiverLife is to allow God's life-giving river to flow through us so that we may bring hope and healing to our communities and the nations. This series is an invitation to lean in closer to Christ so that we can catch on to what matters to Him. It is only when our hearts beat in tandem with Jesus', that we can truly pray, live and give like Him.
3. **Water Baptism.** We're happy to share that 14 RiverLifers were water baptised last Sunday, 13 Mar! We rejoice with all of them on this spiritual milestone as they take this step to publicly proclaim their faith in Christ.
4. **Spiritual Growth Resources.** We have put together a curated list of recommended resources for the RiverLife family. These resources (books, articles, podcasts and videos) are recommendations for the various spiritual growth stages as you seek to grow deeper in the River of God this year. You can access them at rlc.sg/resource. This list will be continually populated throughout the year.

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5. **Cradle Roll.** Our Cradle Roll is now open for kids aged two and below from 9am to 10.30am every Sunday. **NO booking of tickets is required.** In order to protect the health of our little ones, parents, do refer to the updated guidelines in our [e-bulletin](#).
 6. **Service Ticket Returns.** Due to the capacity constraint, if you have booked tickets but are unable to attend – we ask that you kindly return the tickets (as early as possible) so that more RiverLifers have the opportunity to worship in-person. To return your tickets, go to the EventBrite confirmation email and click “View and Manage” or write in to inform us via “Contact Organiser”.
 7. **Prayer Ministry.** If you require prayer ministry for any issues you face (eg. unforgiveness, demonic oppression, etc), you can sign up for RLC’s RTF ministry: <https://bit.ly/rlcrtf>
 8. **Bible Reading Plan.** You can access our 2-Year Bible Reading Plan 2021-2022 by visiting: <https://rlc.sg/brp2021>.
 9. **Testimony.** If you have a testimony to share, you can write to us at stories@riverlife.org.sg to share with us your testimony as an encouragement to others.

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