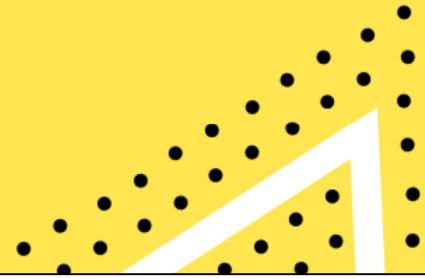




Singlehood and Marriage

Pursuing a Godly Relationship – Session Five





Session Objectives

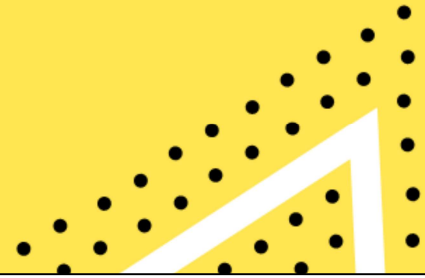
1. Understand the Biblical view of singlehood
2. Understand the Biblical view of marriage
3. Preparation for the season of singlehood and the role of husband and wife



Singlehood and Marriage

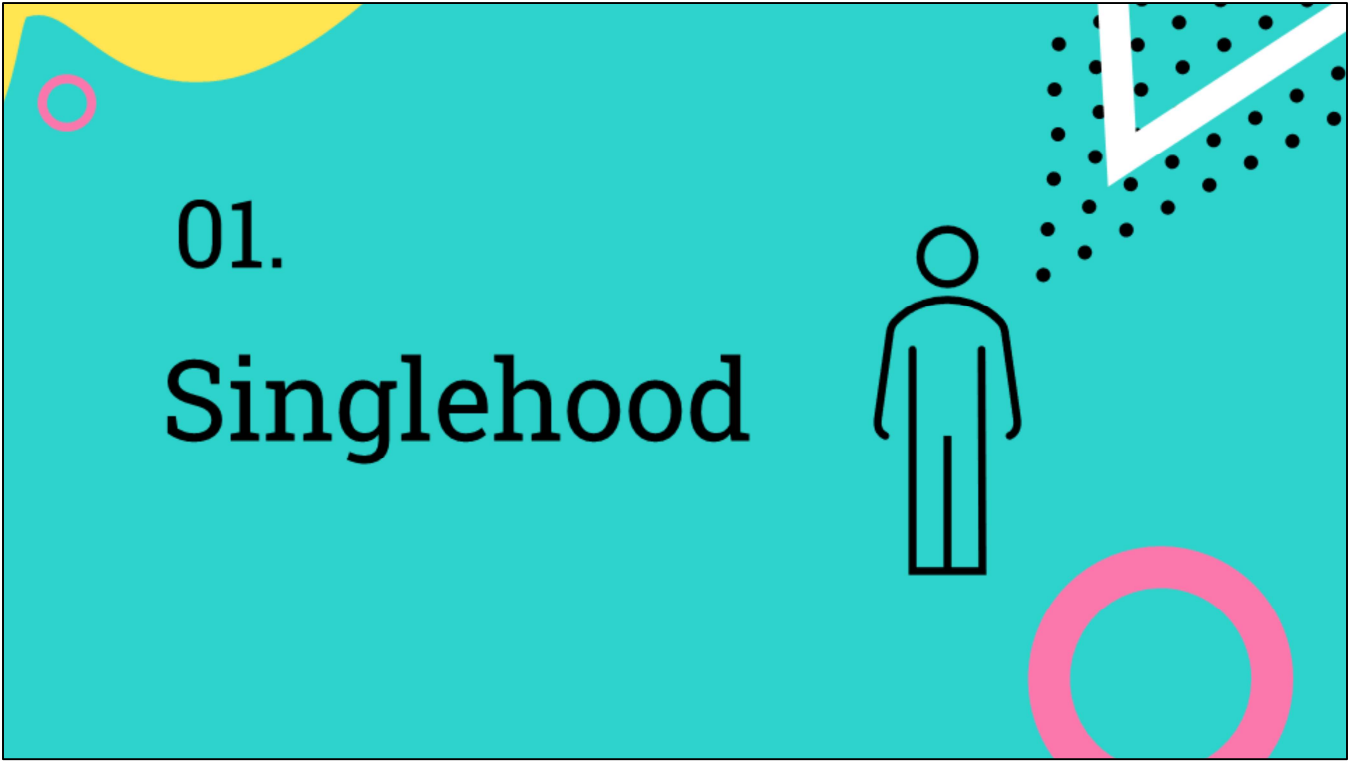
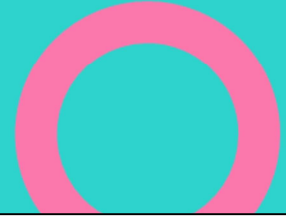
Do you like to go out with me?

Pursuing a Godly Relationship – Session Five



01.

Singlehood



The image features a teal background with several decorative elements: a yellow semi-circle in the top-left corner, a pink circle in the top-left, a white chevron with black dots in the top-right, and a large pink circle in the bottom-right.

Singlehood is...

Lifestages



singlehood



Dating & courtship



marriage



parenthood

relationship



Myth

Singleness
is not
second
best.



Myth

Singleness is not spiritually better than marriage.

- Truth

- God knows you are single and your struggles
- God is not punishing you by keeping your spouse from you
 - His ways are higher than yours

Cliff's rant

- Christian circle has jokes about single people, marriage without children...or children (what gender)
- - single in the fellowship – oh you are new and you are single, why don't you meet so and so he is single too
- Not funny, can be very painful bc you don't know someone's background and the hurt he/she may gone through



Myth

If I am
single, I
have the gift
of celibacy.



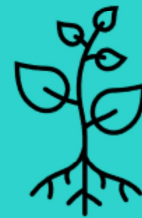
What about the gift of celibacy?

I wish that all of you were as I am. But each of you has your own gift from God; one has this gift, another has that.

- 1 Corinthians 7:7 (NIV)

Gift of celibacy is being single and having not desire for sexual relationship – Paul (1 Cor 7:7)



Healthy Relationship
begins with you **rooted**
in Jesus Christ.





Truth

Singlehood (singleness) is the **only season** in your life where you can **fully devote** yourself seeking His Kingdom.





Importance of cherishing singleness



Go all out
for
Christ

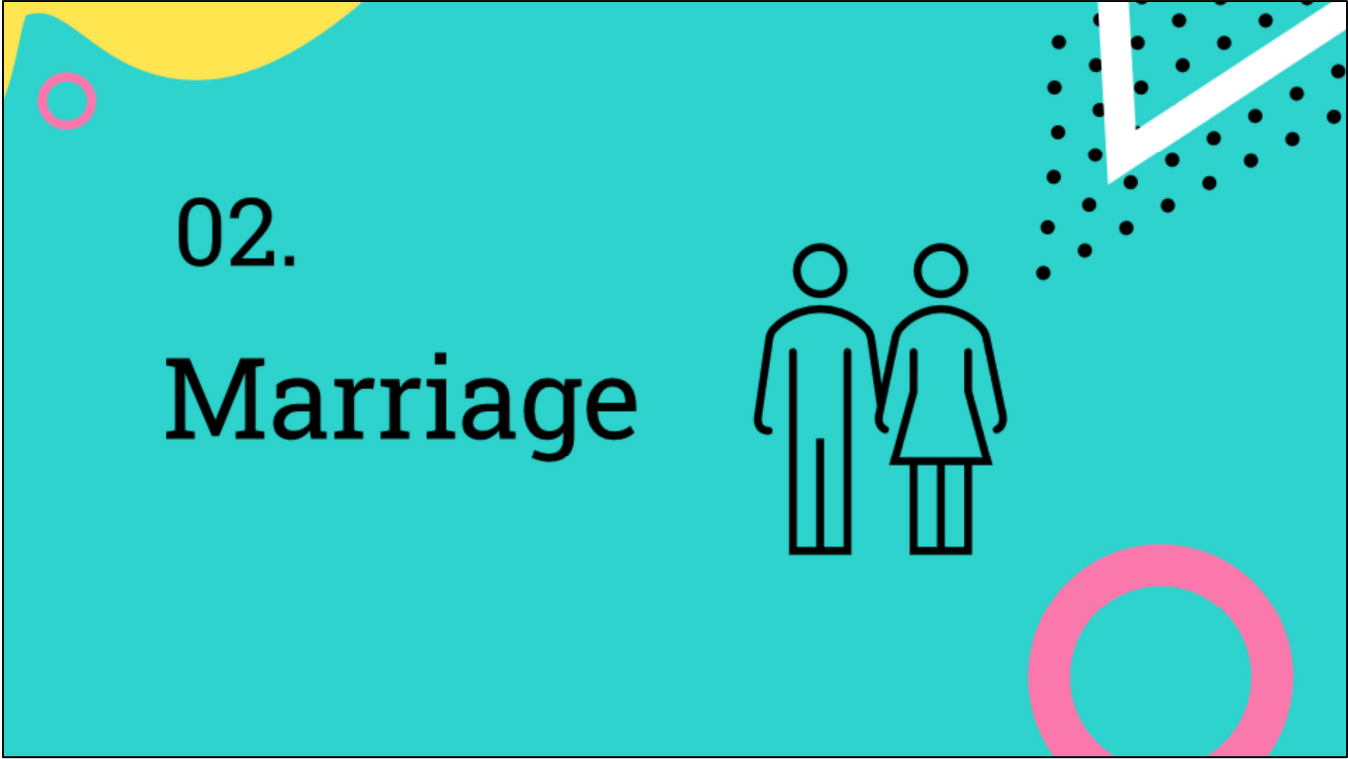
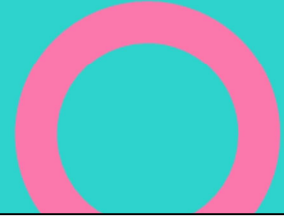


Cliff's way of cherishing singlehood

- Deacon
 - Leading the university fellowship
 - Usher
 - Bible tournament coach
 - Visit the poor in Toronto (mission)
 - Triathlon (testimony)
 - Seminary
- 
- 

02.

Marriage



A marriage is...



- Ordained by God
- Between one man and one woman
- Temporarily (Matthew 22:30)
- To leave and cleave (Genesis 2:24)
- Sacred covenant

- Marriage is **temporarily** (only on earth)
 - Matthew 22:30 - *At the resurrection people will neither marry nor be given in marriage; they will be like the angels in heaven.*
- marriage is **leave and cleave** from our parents and their family (Gen 2:24)
 - *That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh.*
 - Two families coming together
 - You
- Covenant – between two people with relationship (Baker Encyclopedia)
 - Contract = like me (tenant) and landlord – no relationship
 - Between God and His people
 - God speaks the most in covenant – Sinai covenant (Exod 19 and 20)
 - Sometimes between Himself – Gen 15, Heb 6:13
 - Between people to people – David and Jonathan – 1 Sam 18:3
 - The commitment in the covenant is “faithfulness” acted out in the context of friendship (Baker)
 - Mal 2:14 - You ask, “Why?” It is because the Lord is the witness between you and the wife of your youth. You have been unfaithful to her, though she is your partner, the wife of your marriage covenant.

- God is condemning Judah unfaithful bc they worship other God
 - like adultery or an affair



A covenant

- Based on a relationship
 - Rooted in Love
 - Faithfulness is the key
 - Between God and His people (Exodus 19 and 20)
 - David and Jonathan (1 Samuel 18:3)
- 
- 

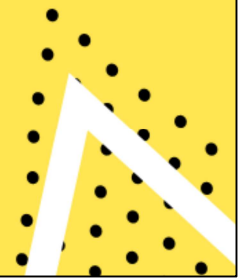
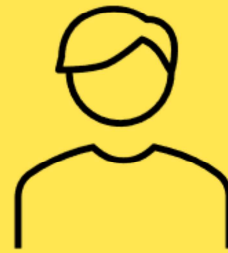
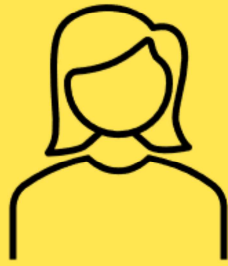
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Wedding Vow

I, N, take you, N, to be my wife (or husband), to have and to hold from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, till death us do part, according to God's holy law, in the presence of God I make this vow.

- what is the binding condition?
 - till death us do part
 - love for better or worst
 - in the presence of God I made this vow
 - this is serious thing
 - you are declaring this not just to people but to God
 - God will hold you and us accountable
- Covenant is made through love and a relationship
- The condition of this vow/covenant is

Before Marriage



After Marriage




"It is not your love that sustains the marriage, but from now on, the marriage that sustains your love."
- Dietrich Bonhoeffer




- Marriage (commitment), my commitment in the marriage that sustains my love
- I commit therefore I love
- Not I love therefore I commit

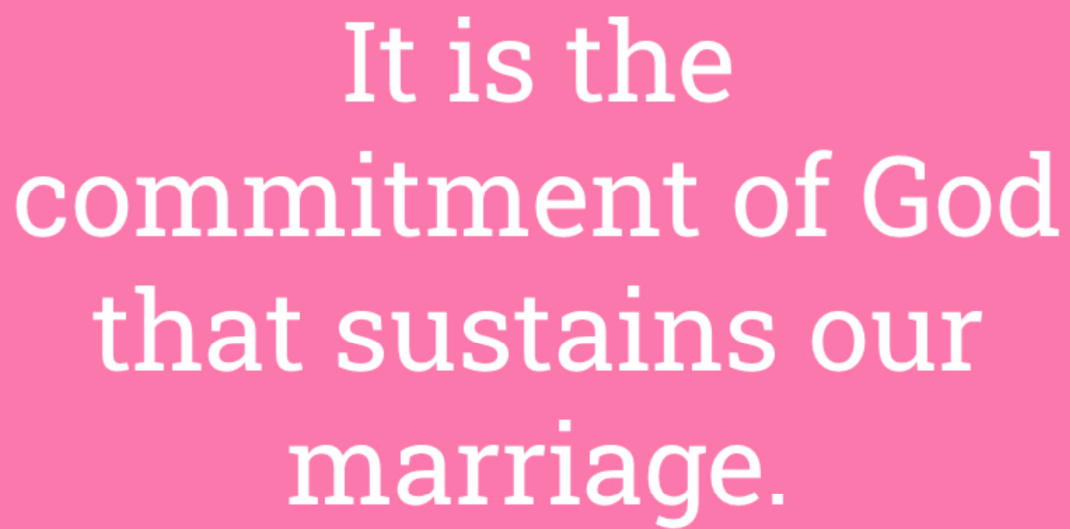
- My commitment is frail and will falter



"In your love you see only your two selves in the world, but in marriage you are a link in the chain of the generations, which God causes to come and to pass away to His glory, and calls into His kingdom. In your love you see only the heaven of your own happiness, but in marriage you are placed at a post of responsibility towards the world and mankind. Your love is your own private possession, but **marriage is more than something personal—it is a status, an office.** Just as it is the crown, and not merely the will to rule, that makes the king, so it is marriage, and not merely your love for each other, that joins you together in the sight of God and man. As you first gave the ring to one another and have now received it a second time from the hand of the pastor, so love comes from you, but **marriage from above, from God.** As high as God is above man, so high are the sanctity, the rights, and the promise of marriage above the sanctity, the rights, and the promise of love. It is not your love that sustains the marriage, but from now on, the marriage that sustains your love."



- What does marriage comes from God?
- Source -> <https://fiercemarriage.com/a-wedding-sermon-from-a-1943-prison-cell-dietrich-Bonhoeffer>



It is the
commitment of God
that sustains our
marriage.



How committed is God?

- *just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her* - Ephesians 5:25
- *"For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh." This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church* – Ephesians 5:31-32

- How did Jesus give Himself for the church -> the CROSS!!!


Role of Husband and Wife



- Primarily found in Ephesians 5:21-33



Wife

- Submit to her husband (Eph 5:22)
 - Respect her husband (Eph 5:33)
 - His Helper (Genesis 2: Proverbs 31)
- 



Husband

- Head of household (Eph 5:23)
- Love His wife (Eph 5:25)
- Wash her clean (Eph 5:26-27)
- Proverbs 1-30(!)

Part of being head of the household is to take initiative to ask a girl out and be willing to declare how you feel about her

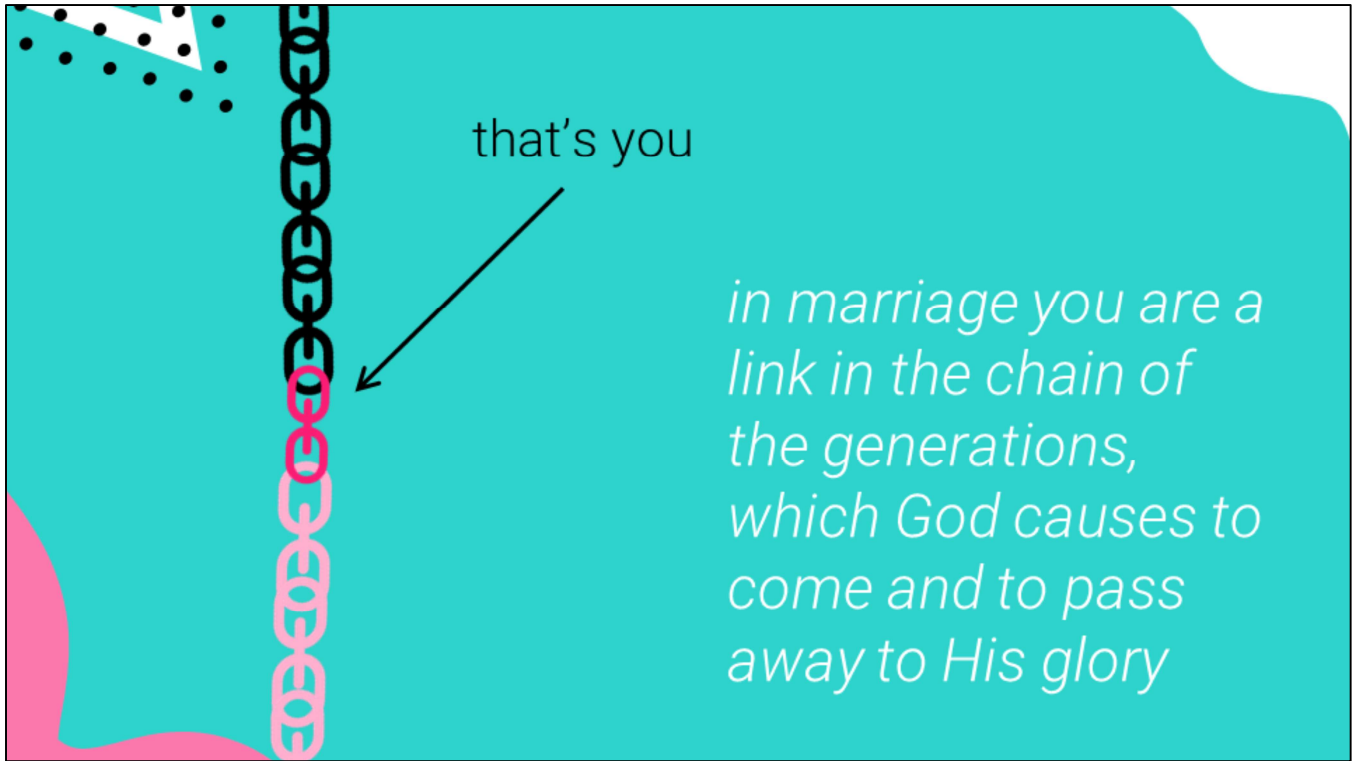
- don't just pretend to be a friend or run away
- This is part of growing up and part of becoming a husband and being a leader



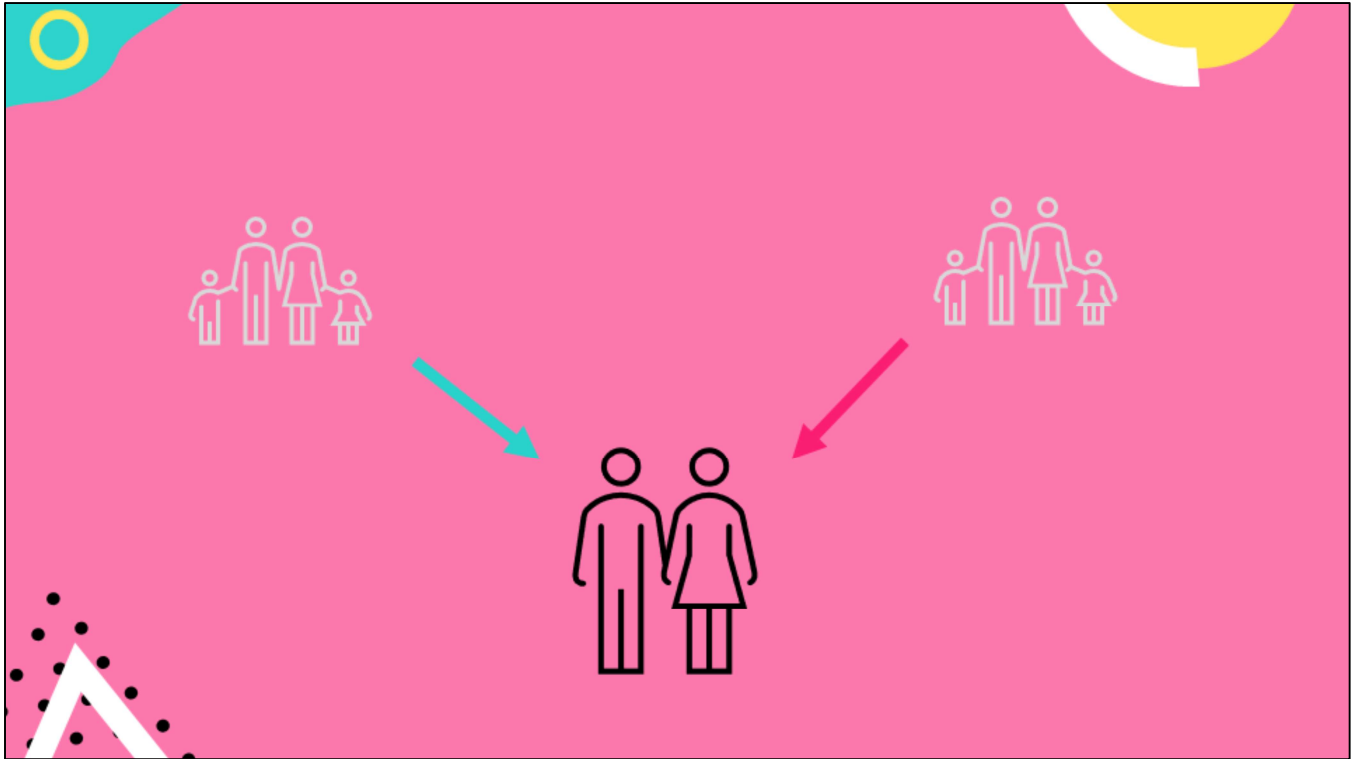
Submission does not mean
passivity

Head of the household does
not mean *oppression*

- Submission does not mean passivity
 - We submit to Christ, doesn't mean we are passive in our walk
 - As Iron sharpens iron – husband and wife is the closest to help each other and grow in Christ with each other
-
- Head of the household
 - How is Christ deal with us as Head of the church – gentle and kind



- Family is God's design
- As such we look at relationship based off of families



- Two families become one
- You are your own family
- You make the choices and decisions for you and your children
- Husband, please lead

Takeaway - for singlehood

- Focus on yourself
- Focus on Christ
- Be part of a strong Christian community you can count on
- Give yourself fully to the Lord
- Prayer!!

- Focus on yourself (not in a bad way)
 - o Find out what recharges you
 - Hobby?
 - Rest? (Introvert)
 - Socializing? (Extrovert)
- Focus on Jesus in all their struggles
 - o He was single and He was the best example of how to live life fully unto God
 - o Jesus knows how you feel because He was single His life on earth!!
- Build a strong Christian community so you can count on
 - o Have one or two very close personal mature Christian to walk along side with you
 - Not 'Aunty who likes to meddle in other businesses'
- Give your life fully to the Lord
 - o When you pursue God, you will attract others who pursue God as well
 - Birds of a feather flock together
 - o Go on missions, Bible school, serve
 - o This is the only time where you can give fully
 - This is not a burden but a privilege
- Longing for marriage with arms open, not clutched – Day by Day
 - o This takes faith if you so focus on getting to find someone
- Prayer is the key
 - o Don't just take an action
 - o Ask God and have peace

- Ask others to pray with you so there is confirmation

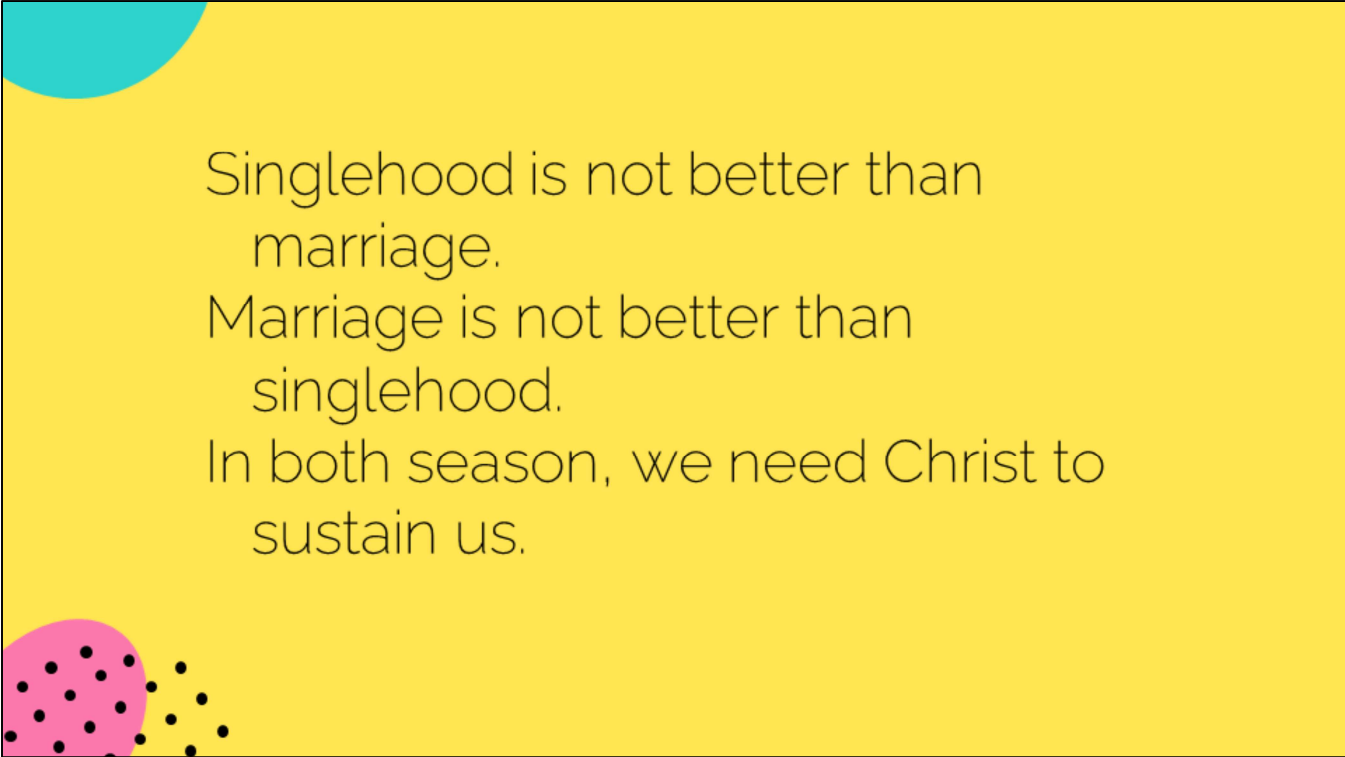
Takeaway – preparation for marriage

- Read books on marriage
- Find a couple as mentors
- Marriage preparation course
- Look for patterns in conflicts
- Learn to be independent
- Prayer!!

Look at patterns of conflicts

- What are the underlying issue
- Conflict is usually not the problem
- Is it insecurity, sinful attitude?

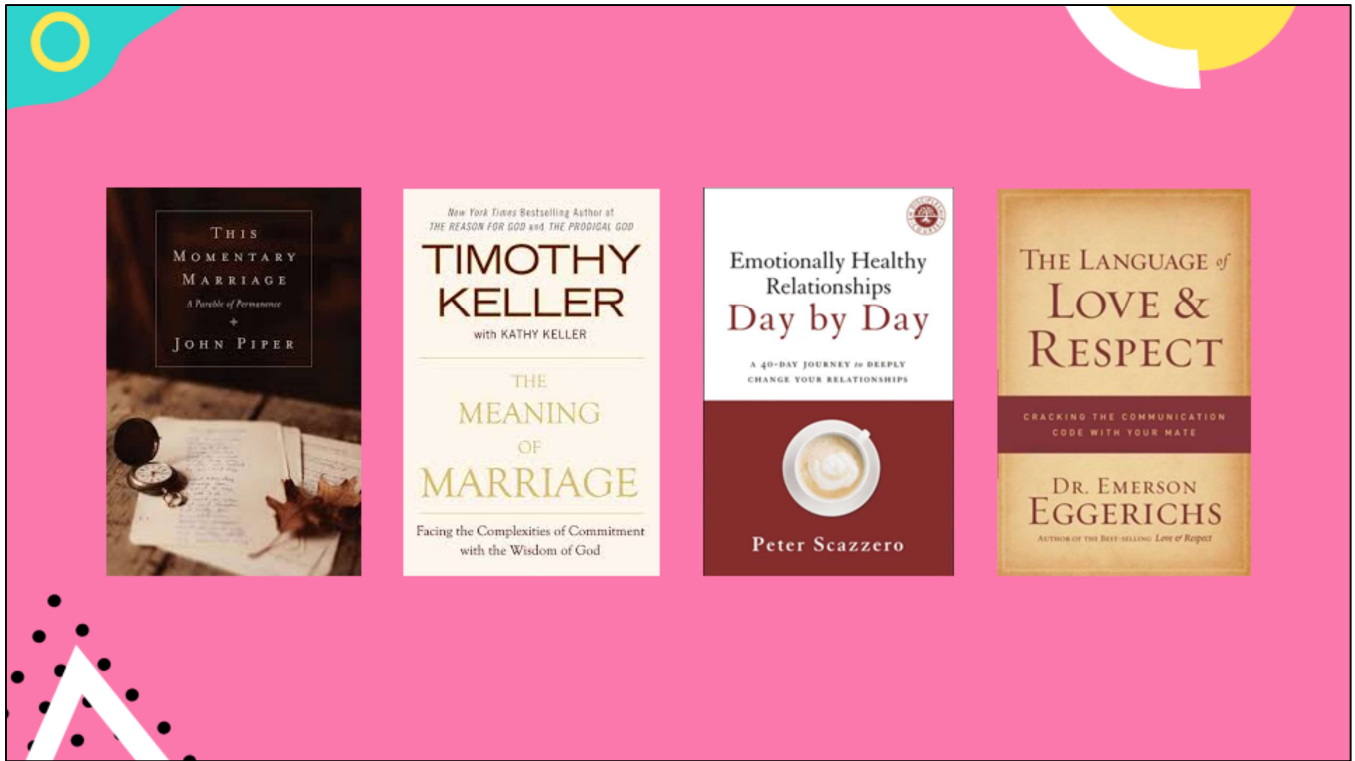
- Learn to be independent
 - Do your chores
 - Pay your bills etc
 - This is part of growing up and being responsible for yourself
 - Even though I live at home with my parents, I pay rent.
 - Learn to grow up – ‘adulting’



Singlehood is not better than
marriage.

Marriage is not better than
singlehood.

In both season, we need Christ to
sustain us.



- The Momentary marriage
- The Meaning of Marriage
- Emotionally Spirituality Bundle – Day by Day in relationship
- Love and Respect



Thank you! Same time next week

Thursday (8:45 pm) or Saturday (2 pm)
Singapore time (SGT)

Feedback -> <http://bit.ly/relationship-feedback>
Contact Cliff -> Cliff.tam@gmail.com

