

Christian Challenge of Wichita Study Guide  
Walking with God in Singleness, Dating, and Marriage  
2/13/2025

Would you classify yourself in one of the following categories? Or a different one? Explain.

- Happy and single
- Sad and single
- Happy and dating or engaged
- Sad and dating or engaged
- Married

“Deciding to get married and who to marry is the second biggest decision a person will make in life, second only to the decision to follow Jesus.”

- Do you think this is accurate? Why or why not?

We can veer into two opposing ditches when it comes to our view on marriage. We might *underemphasize* marriage, which is marked by misguided beliefs about personal autonomy, relational and sexual “freedom,” a twisted definition of love, the normalization of divorce, and a redefinition of marriage and sexuality. Or we might *overemphasize* marriage, which is marked by the misguided beliefs that marriage is necessary for a life of fulfillment, that singleness is a second-class state of existence, and that some other person can “complete” us.

- Are you tempted to underemphasize or overemphasize marriage? Explain.

Here are **four biblical points on the nature of marriage:**

*Read Genesis 2:18-25 and Matthew 19:3-9.*

- 1) Marriage is God’s idea
  - 2) Since God made and instituted marriage, He holds the sole right to *define* and *direct* it
  - 3) Scripture defines marriage as a sacred, lifelong covenant between a man and a woman
  - 4) Marriage does not involve just two parties, but three: husband, wife, and God
- When you think about marriage, do you usually have these four points about the nature in marriage in mind? Explain. How do you think knowing the nature of God’s design for marriage should shape the way we think about dating and moving toward marriage?

Here are **four biblical purposes for marriage:**

*Read Ephesians 5:22-33.*

- 1) To reflect the glory of God
- 2) To create a stable environment for procreation, family, and service

3) To sanctify husband and wife

4) To create a safe and secure relationship for experience of joy, companionship, and sexual intimacy

- When you think about marriage, do you usually have these purposes in mind or not? Explain. How do you think knowing God's purposes for marriage should shape the way we think about dating and moving toward marriage?

*Read 1 Corinthians 7:1-40.*

- What do we learn about singleness and marriage from this passage?
- Does Paul's positive appraisal of singleness offer a corrective to the way you typically think about being single? If so, how?
- According to Paul, what are some of the benefits of singleness?
  
- What comment or idea that was shared during the panel time was most memorable to you and why?
- Is there any personal attitude, action, or perspective that you need to change this week in light of this discussion? If so, what does it look like to move that direction?

Further Resources:

*Holy Sexuality* by Christopher Yuan

*Love, Sex, and Lasting Relationships* by Chip Ingram

*The Meaning of Marriage* by Timothy Keller

A personal mentor from your local church