

# 1 CORINTHIANS

The Gospel  
in Community

WHEN FAITH AND LIFE COLLIDE

## Study 9

**SINGLENES IN THE GOSPEL COMMUNITY**

I Corinthians 7:6-9;25-38



# TWO EXTREMES

1 Cor 6: 12 -13 "All things are lawful for me," .....Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food



**Liberal**

1 Cor 7:1 It is good for a man not to have sexual relations with a woman."



**Conservative**



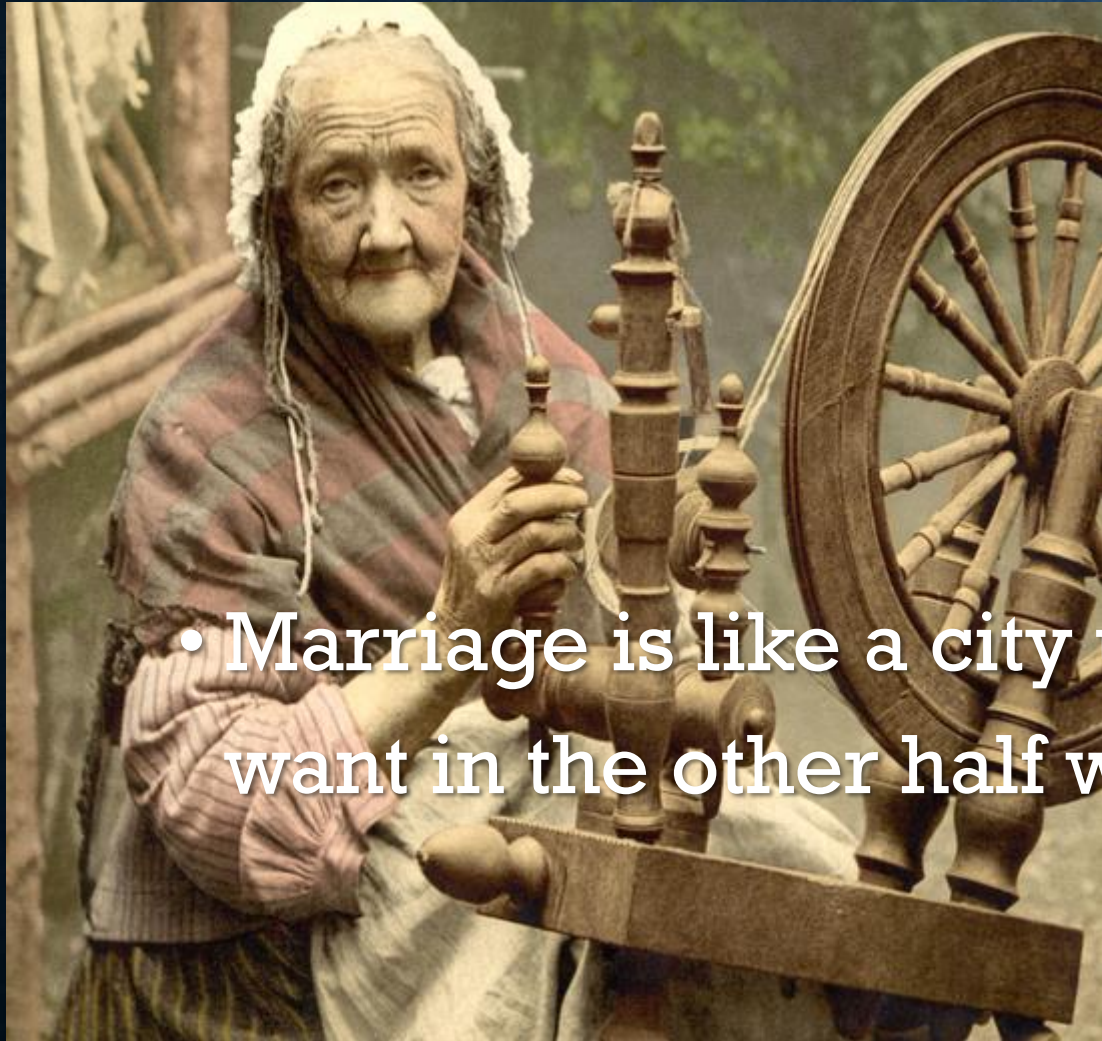
# ASCETISM AND SPIRITUALITY





# SINGLENES AND MARRIAGE

Spinster



- Marriage is like a city under siege half the people want in the other half want out

Liberated single





# LEFT ON THE SHELF

## Stigma

- Unfulfilled ..physically
- Psychologically
- Loss of potential
- Vulnerable
- Unwanted
- Defective
- Socially awkward





# LEFT OVER MEN IN COUNTRY VS LEFT OVER WOMEN IN THE CITIES OF CHINA





# Marriage is for self fulfilment

## STRUGGLE WITH GOD

Loneliness

God has failed her

God has denied her even though  
she was faithful

Blame all current problems on lack  
of spouse

Unfulfilled..marriage must fulfill  
me



**JERRY MCGUIRE**

You had me at  
hello

You complete me



*When two souls feel like one*

# **TWIN FLAMES**



# **SIGNS OF TWIN FLAME CONNECTION**

- sense that you're meeting yourself.
- multiple similarities, sometimes uncanny.
- deep connection.
- desire to grow.
- prioritization of growth over being in a relationship.
- the meeting signifies a major change in your life.



A woman with blonde, wavy hair is sitting on a light-colored couch. She is holding a large, yellow, circular plate with a simple smiley face drawn on it in front of her face, covering her eyes and nose. She is wearing a yellow and white striped tank top. The background is a bright, modern interior with white walls and a window on the right side.

**The primary goal in life is to be happy**

**God owes me!!**



## PAUL'S SINGLENES

1 Corinthians 7:7-9 (ESV) I wish that all were as I myself am. But each has his own gift from God, one of one kind and one of another.

8 To the unmarried and the widows I say that it is good for them to remain single, as I am. 9 But if they cannot exercise self-control, they should marry. For it is better to marry than to burn with passion.



# Charisma

- 1 Corinthians 12:4 (ESV) Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit;
- Wisdom
- Knowledge
- Faith
- Healing
- Miracles



# GIFT



Singleness

1 Corinthians 12:7 (ESV) To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good  
1 Corinthians 12:11 (ESV) All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills.



Marriage



## PAUL'S SINGLENES

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# SINGLE PERSON



- Have the gift of singleness
- Not overly tempted to sexual immorality
- Devoted to serving the Lord



# SINGLE PERSON

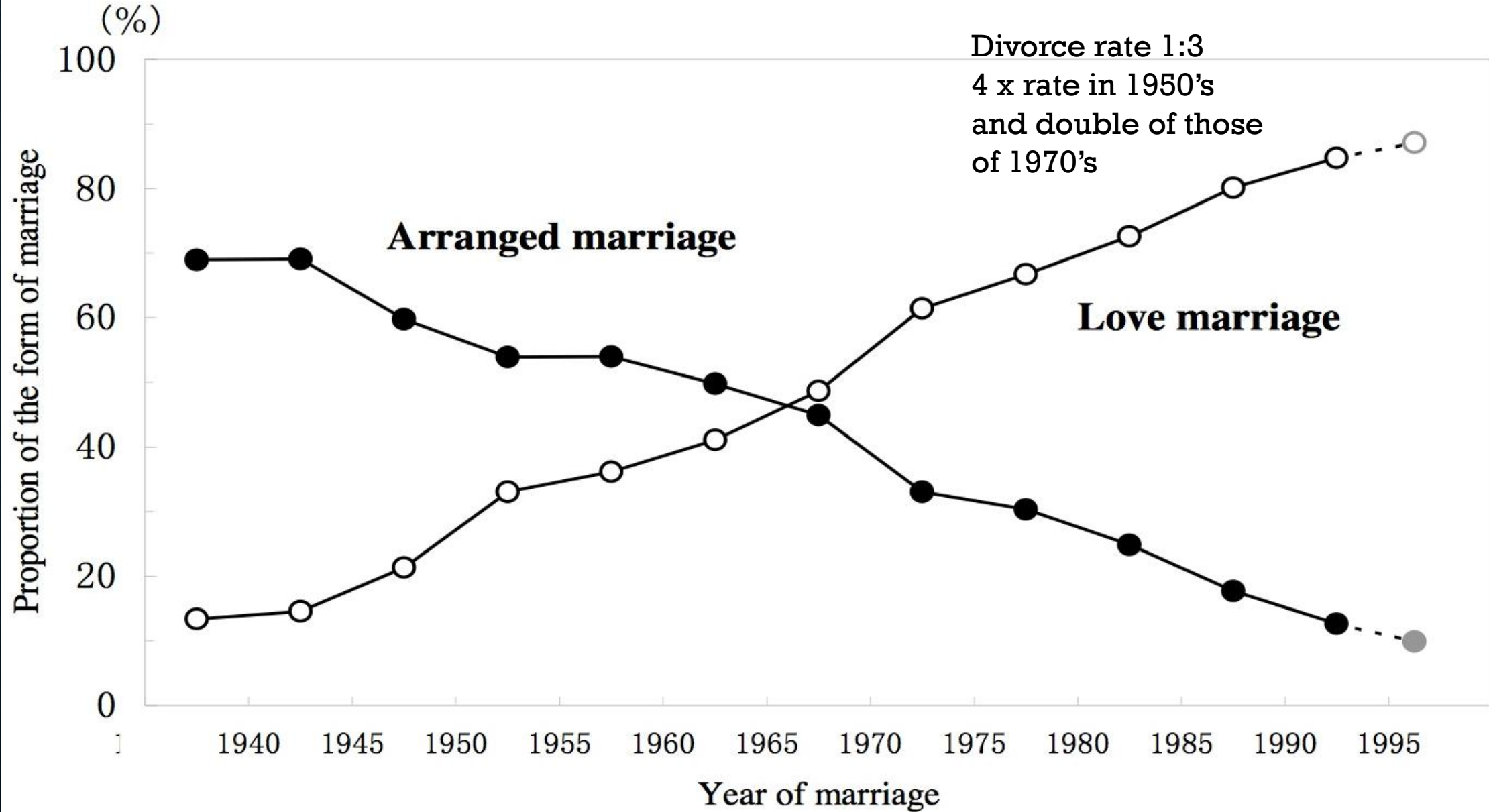


- ~~But if they cannot~~ <sup>But if they cannot</sup> exercise self-control, they should marry. For it is better to marry than to burn with passion.
- ~~Overly tempted to sexual immorality~~ <sup>Overly tempted to sexual immorality</sup>
- ~~Distracted by lust from serving the Lord~~ <sup>Distracted by lust from serving the Lord</sup>

**Marriage is a choice**



Figure II-2-2 Changes in composition of love marriage and arranged marriage classified by year of marriage







## FORCED TO BE SINGLE?

Socially awkward

Ugly

Poor

Bad breath

Too Picky

Disabled?



# GIFT OF SINGLENES BY DEFAULT

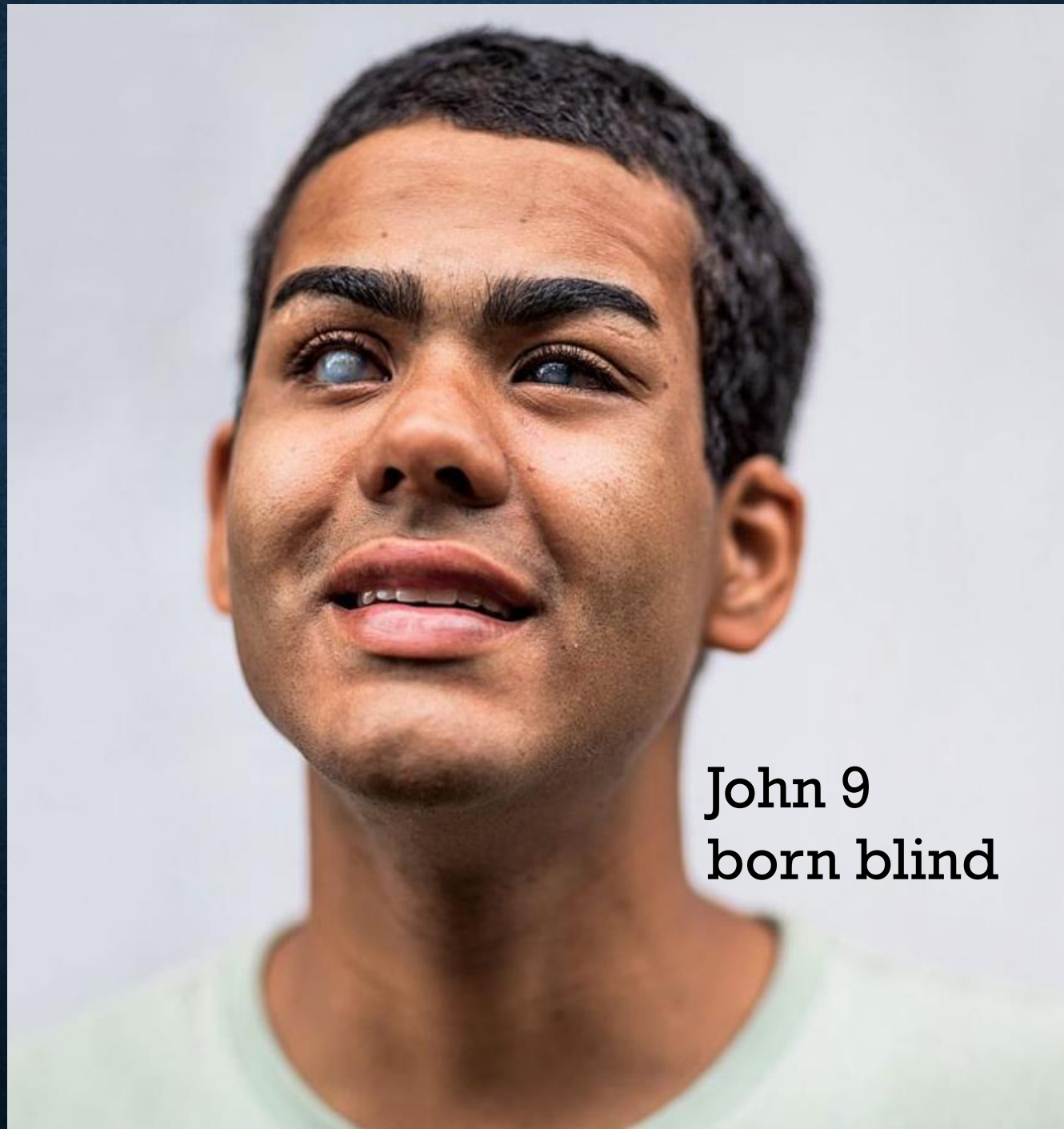
1 Corinthians 12:7 (ESV) To each is  
given the manifestation of the Spirit for  
the common good



# GIFT OF SINGLENES BY DEFAULT

1 Corinthians 7:17 (ESV) Only let each person lead the life that the Lord has assigned to him, and to which God has called him. This is my rule in all the churches.





**John 9**  
**born blind**



# **GIFT OF SINGLENES BY DEFAULT**

He has made everything beautiful  
in its time

Ecclesiastes 3 :11a



## **THE REAL FULFILLMENT OF THE SINGLE PERSON**

**1 Corinthians 7:19 (ESV) For neither circumcision counts for anything nor uncircumcision, but keeping the commandments of God.**

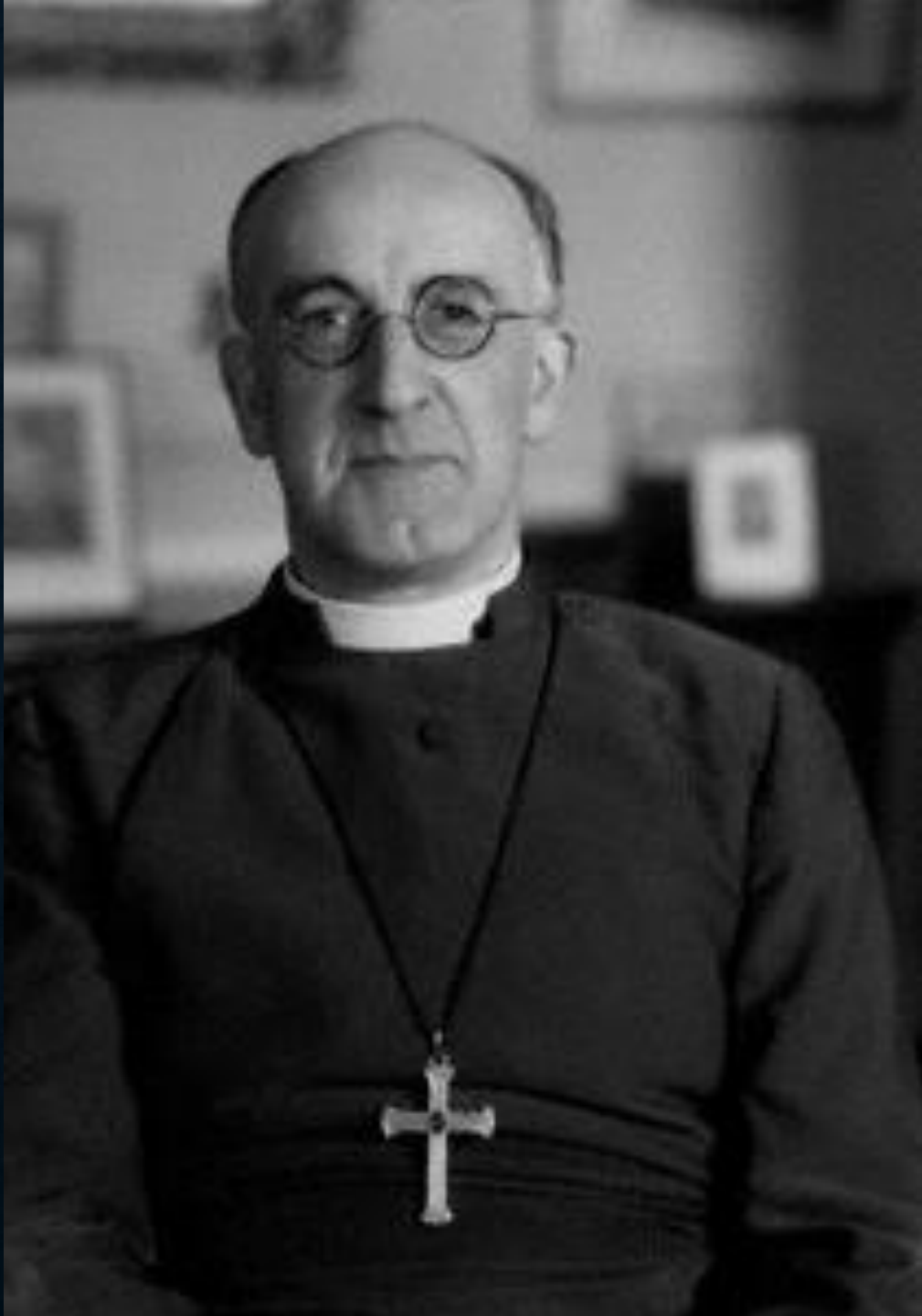


# THE ADVANTAGES OF SINGLENES

## 1. Less Trouble

1 Corinthians 7:28 (ESV) But if you do marry, you have not sinned, and if a betrothed woman marries, she has not sinned. Yet those who marry will have worldly troubles, and I would spare you that.





## **ARCHBISHOP GEOFFREY FISHER**

**“A woman is a great help  
to a man in all the  
problems he never had  
as a bachelor”**



# PRESSURES

- “All marriages are happy it’s the living together afterwards that causes all the trouble”
- “Although love may begin when you sink in his arms it has a tendency to continue with your arms in his sink”

# THE ADVANTAGES OF SINGLENES

## 2. Limited time

1 Corinthians 7:29-31 (ESV) This is what I mean, brothers: the appointed time has grown very short. From now on, let those who have wives live as though they had none, 30 and those who mourn as though they were not mourning, and those who rejoice as though they were not rejoicing, and those who buy as though they had no goods, 31 and those who deal with the world as though they had no dealings with it. For the present form of this world is passing away.



# THE ADVANTAGES OF SINGLENESS

## 3. Single minded focus on the kingdom

1 Corinthians 7:32-34 (ESV) I want you to be free from anxieties. The unmarried man is anxious about the things of the Lord, how to please the Lord. 33 But the married man is anxious about worldly things, how to please his wife, 34 and his interests. The unmarried woman is anxious about the things of the Lord, how to be holy in body and spirit. But the married woman is anxious about worldly things, how to please her husband.

Not that Single man more holy and married not holy  
Pressure on time

# THE ADVANTAGES OF SINGLENES

## 4. Personal fulfilment

1 Corinthians 7:38-40 (ESV) 38 So then he who marries his betrothed does well, and he who refrains from marriage will do even better.

39 A wife is bound to her husband as long as he lives. But if her husband dies, she is free to be married to whom she wishes, only in the Lord. 40 Yet in my judgment she is happier if she remains as she is. And I think that I too have the Spirit of God.



# **THE REAL POSITION OF MARRIAGE**

- Marriage is nobodies ultimate destination because one or other will die
- Only heaven there will be complete fulfilment

# WALTER TROBISCH

Love is a  
Feeling to be  
Learned

Trobisch, Walter

*“To give up oneself is as important for a single person as it is for one who is married. Those who learn this art will never be lonely even if they are single . Those who don’t will be always be lonely even though they are married. The task we have to face is the same whether we are married or we are single to live a fulfilled life in spite of many unfulfilled desires “*



# THE REAL FULFILLMENT OF THE SINGLE PERSON

- Worth , fulfillment and peace are not exclusively questions of biology
- They transcend our situations
- In acceptance lies peace



# THE MYTHS OF SINGLENES

Unless you have a spouse and a family, you can't possibly be a legitimate person.



Unless you have sex and romance and love, you can't possibly be fulfilled





# CHRISTIAN VIEW OF SINGLENES

“Christians have a higher view of sexuality, yet we are more free from the need for it than anyone who has ever lived.”

# MARRIAGE

...to my marriage partner to help my marriage partner be everything that Christ wants him or her to be. It's supposed to be a way of service and not just self-fulfillment," "On the other hand, marriage can never give you all the things that you are really looking for. It's only in Jesus' arms that you can ever really find what you are looking for in a spouse and it's only in the family of God and the church."

Tim Keller



1 Corinthians 7:25-28 (ESV) 25 Now concerning the betrothed, I have no command from the Lord, but I give my judgment as one who by the Lord's mercy is trustworthy. 26 I think that in view of the present distress it is good for a person to remain as he is. 27 Are you bound to a wife? Do not seek to be free. Are you free from a wife? Do not seek a wife. 28 But if you do marry, you have not sinned, and if a betrothed woman marries, she has not sinned.

# EXTRA TIME

A dynamic action shot from a soccer match. Two players are captured in mid-air, competing for a ball. The player on the left is wearing a red jersey with yellow accents and black shorts, while the player on the right is in a light blue jersey with white accents and black shorts. A soccer ball is suspended in the air between them. The background shows a large stadium filled with spectators under bright lights.

29. This is what I mean  
brothers: the  
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