

I have a friend who...struggles with being single
May 30 & 31, 2009

Realize that God's already "picked you!"

- ***God loved the world so much that He gave His one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life.***

John chapter 3 verse 16 (811)

- Getting what I want ≠ love

God has a wonderful plan for your life

- ***"I know the plans I have for you," says the Lord. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope."*** *Jeremiah chapter 29 verse 11 (596)*
- Rest in the reality of this truth
- Find contentment in God constantly working to bring about His plan for good & hope in your life

God being mysterious ≠ God making a mistake

- ***The Lord our God has secrets known to no one. We are not accountable for them....***

Deuteronomy chapter 29 verse 29 (162)

- When I don't understand something about God, it doesn't mean that He doesn't care about me or that He's not listening to me
- God wants me to trust Him in spite of His mystery!

I am complete in Christ...not another person

- ***May you experience the love of Christ, though it is too great to understand fully. Then you will be made complete with all the fullness of life and power that comes from God.***

Ephesians chapter 3 verse 19 (896)

- When I really know God's love for me...
- it allows me to understand & actually experience my completeness in Christ!
- I grow to know God's love for me through Bible study & worship and...

God intends for me to experience community at Bethel

- ***When Paul had finished speaking, he knelt and prayed with them. They all cried as they embraced and kissed him good-bye.***

Acts chapter 20 verses 36 & 37 (849)

- Paul (a single guy!), has reduced the crowd to tears because of his impact on them!
- How different would my life / desires be if I experienced community like this at Bethel?

(over)

Honor God sexually

- ***Run from sexual sin! No other sin so clearly affects the body as this one does. For sexual immorality is a sin against your own body. Don't you realize that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who lives in you and was given to you by God? You do not belong to yourself, for God bought you with a high price. So you must honor God with your body. 1 Corinthians chapter 6 verses 18 - 20 (873)***
- Sexual sin never gets "fixed" by marriage
- Sexual sin has the greatest consequences
- If I cannot honor God sexually as a single, I will not honor God sexually if I'm married
- God offers forgiveness & cleansing for all sin - see 1 John chapter 1 verse 9

Marriage is not the cure-all

Divorce - Today, approximately...

- 50% of 1st marriages ends in divorce
- 74% of 2nd marriages ends in divorce
- 83% of 3rd marriages ends in divorce
- 93% of 4th marriages ends in divorce
- After divorce, as a rule, it takes about 1 year of healing for every 4 years of marriage
- After divorce, rushing into another marriage only increases your chances of another divorce
- **Statistics from DivorceCare*
- A great book that explores the connection between our sexuality & our spirituality is Sex-God by Rob Bell. I recommend this book highly, because as you read it, you'll understand so much more about who you are sexually and how this is tied into your spirituality.

Next weekend: I have a friend who...is getting pounded by trouble