

The Art of Loving & Laughing
Andy Deane · 4/30/2023 · Singleness

Today I'll speak to married couples about what not to say to singles,
and I'll speak to singles about some lies they need to get out of their minds.

MARRIED? Love singles better than just sharing clichés.

1. Cliché: You must be content before God will give a spouse
 - Truth: Contentment is possible, but it's not a means to a greater blessing. It is a blessing in itself to be content.
 - Philippians 4:11, *I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content.*
 - Singleness can be hard, but the answer is not to "stop being so upset", but to lean into God's promises.

2. Cliché: You're so wonderful—why aren't you married yet?
 - Truth: "Your worth is in who made you"
Proverbs 22:2, *Rich and poor share this in common: The Lord is the Maker of them all.*
 - Truth: "Your worth is in how you're made"
Genesis 1:26, *Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness...*
 - Truth: "Your worth is in who chose you"
Ephesians 1:5, *He predestined us for adoption to sonship*
 - Truth: "Your worth is in what you cost"
1 Peter 1:18-19a, *For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed...but with the precious blood of Christ...*

3. Cliché: Your turn is coming!
 - Can we keep that promise? We don't know details of God's providence:
Isaiah 55:8, *"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the Lord.*
 - You can say this about God's providence:
 - Nahum 1:7, *The Lord is good, a refuge in times of trouble. He cares for those who trust in him.*
 - Philippians 4:19, *And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus.*
 - Romans 8:28, *And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him...*
 - Truth: Remind them that the sweetness of life is here now.
 - Truth: Life isn't about marriage; its about Christ.
Philippians 1:21, *For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.*

SINGLE? Love yourself enough to reject these lies.

1. Lie: Being single means you are alone.
 - Genesis 2:18, *The Lord God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him."*
 - We mistakenly approach this as prescriptive, and pointing to marriage as the solution for lack of companionship.
 - God declared that being on mission alone is problematic.
 - Truth: Living outside community is not good.
 - Truth: We're created for relationships & the local church provides meaningful ones.
 - Hebrews 2:11, *Both the one who makes people holy and those who are made holy are of the same family. So Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters.*

2. Lie: Your value is in a role.
 - One phrase I've heard a few times is that a woman's greatest fulfillment comes from being a wife and a mother.
 - Proverbs 31:10, *A wife of noble character who can find? She is worth far more than rubies.*
 - Truth: Temporary life roles are not the markers of godliness.
 - Truth: Our value to others increases when our character increases.
 - If you are single, remember to place your value not in what is temporary, but in what is lasting: godliness.
 - 1 Timothy 4:8, *For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come.*

All humans experience seasons of singleness.

- Why does God ordain these seasons for everyone?
- 1 Corinthians 7:35, ...*this for your own good, that you may live in a right way in undivided devotion to the Lord.*
- Singleness gives us freedom to focus on God in a special way for that season.
- Singleness beautifully showcases the sufficiency of God's love for us!
- For more information, consider reading the book: *7 Myths About Singleness* by Sam Allberry.