

Single and Satisfied

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One day, I woke up and I was 25-years-old, divorced, and although, I had achieved my goal of becoming an attorney, I knew that I would never be happy practicing law. I felt lost, I felt as if I had no purpose. I was not a wife, I was not a mother, and I didn't even feel like I was a productive member of society. So, I did what any normal person would do, I e-mailed Dr. Phil. I told him about how I was discontented with my life after feeling as though I had followed a flawless, society-approved plan. I actually appeared on the Dr. Phil show, but it didn't help. The show had an angle of making the guests that day look like whiny 20-somethings with no clue about how to survive in the real world, but that wasn't my problem. So I headed back home, feeling just as empty as before, and wondering who could help me with my issues. Someone greater than Dr. Phil...OPRAH! Just kidding, I quickly came to my senses on the plane ride home and realized that only God could help me with this one.

As single people, society would have us believe that we can only be fulfilled by marrying, having a successful career, or having a jam-packed social calendar, which normally includes heavy drinking and promiscuity. We are bombarded with these societal pressures throughout our lives on television, in movies, in music, and even in books. Well, I had done all three of those things, and at times, combinations of all three, but I still felt empty and lonely. That's when God had me right where He wanted me. I had no husband, no desire to pursue my childhood dream of being an attorney, and I hadn't been on a date in two years. In that place, my lowest of lows, He said, "Talk to me. Tell me what you desire the most." After much thought and prayer, I realized that I did not know what I desired. I knew what I thought other people wanted from me. I knew what I thought I needed, but I did not know what I truly desired.

Then, I went back to my letter to Dr. Phil. At that time, I felt as if I had no purpose because of the hand that life dealt me. Scratch that...because of the hand I dealt myself. I felt, well, purpose-less. "What is my purpose?" "Why am I here?" "Am I worthy of being loved or respected?" That's what I desired most; to know the answers to those questions. At one time, I thought that those answers could be found in a dream or in a relationship. I was proven wrong, well, sort of. Those answers *were* found in a relationship, just not the kind that I had envisioned. That relationship where I found my answers would help me realize my dreams. So, what are the answers to the questions? My purpose is to seek to be closer to God. I am here because He has a plan for my life that will bring Him glory. I am worthy of being loved and respected because I am His. Those answers did not come easy, but they came after months of constant communication with God. After all, communication is the cornerstone of any great relationship. My viewpoint switched from "Woe is me" to "Whoa, look what God can do with me!"

As a single person, God can use you in so many ways if you focus on your relationship with Him, first and foremost. This is not to say that you will never get frustrated or lonely. Living a life that is guided by your relationship with God is not a magical key to Perfect Land because we still live on this earth with this society. However, you can get through those feelings and God will turn them into contentment and commitment if you realize that God has a better plan for you than you or anyone else will ever have. Having a romantic relationship is not a bad thing, unless you put it before your relationship with God. Having a successful career is not a bad thing, unless you forget to credit your successes to God. Having a jam-packed social calendar is not a bad thing, unless in your social activities, you forget what is pleasing to God. God desires for us to have joy in our lives because when we are filled with joy, we are sure to give Him the praise. But we have to remember that He knows what is best for us, and when it is best for us to have it. I have learned the hard way that trying to live according to my plans, slowed down God's plan for me. Fortunately, for me, He is omnipotent and His will is going to be fulfilled no matter how often I get in the way.

Recognizing God's love and respect for you is the key in loving and respecting yourself, and accepting love and receiving respect from others. Being single does not have to be a prison sentence; it is a time of freedom to establish a meaningful relationship with God, and explore the path that He has for your life. When you seek Godly acceptance rather than social acceptance, singleness becomes something that you have no doubt you can bear, and a state of life that you actually begin to enjoy.

LESSON'S I'VE LEARNED ABOUT LOVE

- 1) You make time for the people and the things that you really care about
- 2) Broken promises and lost time can never be retrieved
- 3) The people who care the most about you don't always tell you when you're messing up if they're afraid to hurt your feelings; they will secretly pray behind your back that you'll come around, and endure the pain of only being able to enjoy your physical presence, rather than your emotional, spiritual, and mental presence, until you do come around
- 4) People that you love can't see within your heart how much you love them; its shown by sweet compliments, sharing their interests, and showing them that you care rather than just feel obligated to be around them
- 5) Love is a present tense verb that requires action now; what you've done in the past and will do in the future only counts if you're Christ.