

## Chapter 4

# I Can't Believe You're Still Single!



Psalm 78:63 *“Fire consumed their young men, and their maidens had no wedding songs.”*

Matthew 22:30 *“At the resurrection, people will neither marry nor be given in marriage; they will be like the angels in heaven.”*

**T**alk to singles in your circle and you are bound to run into a few who have a list of reasons why they are still single. This chapter attempts to explain the fallacy behind some of these reasons.

### **#1 I am still single because of my PAST**

You may be thinking that your past is too ugly and that no one would want you for a soul mate if they knew how you used to be or what you used to do. We would all be single if we bought into the mentality that no one would want us because of our past. Some of the things that happened in our lives were through no fault of our own (e.g. child molestation, rape, neglect, and so on). Other past events were the

direct result of our bad choices or misguided decisions (e.g. financial bankruptcy, drug use, unhealthy relationships.). Without the grace of God, we really would not have a hope in this world.

Allow me to share something with you. If God has forgiven you and reconciled you to himself, then it falls on others to accept what God has already done. I John 1:1-10 states, “If we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us and to cleanse us from every wrong.” (NLT) So, if there are people in your life who cannot accept the forgiveness and restoration that God has imputed upon you, then I recommend that you reevaluate your relationship with them. I have learned this about people and their perceptions of me. How they feel about me does not change how I really am. If what you think of me is true, then it still does not change anything about who I am nor how I am. If what people think of me is not true, it still does not effect who I really am and fails to change how I am. Therefore, I refuse to waste precious time entertaining others’ thoughts of me. Instead, I spend my time doing at least two things. First, I have my hands full with trying to deal with my personal thoughts of who I am becoming. Secondly, during the remaining time, I spend affirming how God feels about me. When I add up the time allocated for personal reflection and spiritual reflection, I do not have the room nor the time to deal with others’ perceptions.

## **#2 I am still single because of my family Priorities**

If your extended family is currently your priority, you are to be commended. Family is perhaps the most important yet most neglected facet of our society. Do not ever stop doing what is important to you for the sake of having someone by your side. The person who enjoys your company will need to understand that family is always first. Part of finding someone with whom to spend the rest of your life is finding

someone who accepts those things that you value. If you value family time, then seek someone who would welcome that same passion.

Come to think about it, I do not know of too many men who would not delight in finding someone who valued the institution of family. What woman would not want a man who knows how to take care of her when she is down? If you possess this attribute, you will need to retain this quality and not be ashamed of it. There is someone out there who would benefit greatly.

### **#3 I am still single because of my Post years**

You may have the mindset that at your age (30, 40, 50, even 60) that the pickings are slim. If the choices are limited, it is certainly not solely because you fall into a particular age group. There are so many other factors to consider besides age. Regardless to your age, consider the percentage of singles that are truly available for a monogamous and serious relationship. Consider that few people are looking to spend their life with someone who does not know what they want out of life. Most are looking for a person who has learned to value life. You have had the opportunity to sample life and learn to prioritize the things that matter most in life. This stability is extremely beneficial in any relationship, marital or dating.

I waited until I was thirty-nine to proceed to the altar. At the age of thirty-six, I had pretty much resolved in my spirit that God had destined me for a life of celibacy. There was no one in the picture, and it seemed natural to segue from nearly twelve years of abstinence into a lifetime of singleness. I, too, had settled in my mind that no one would want to marry a nearly forty year old, graying man. Boy, was I wrong!

#### **#4 I am still single because of my Profession**

Yeah, yeah...the job you have requires too much of your time. While you break your back and rack your brain after hours to impress the boss, others are at home enjoying down time and bonding with their families. Do not misunderstand me, please; your commitment is, at best, admirable. However, as a recovering workaholic, let me warn you against placing so much importance on something that is not only unpredictable but also unstable. I know you would like to believe that your career will be there for you always, but the truth is, you really cannot count on you job. For that reason, to put it as priority over your social, spiritual, and physical needs is simply ludicrous.

No mistaking, I am glad to hear you have a career and not just another fly by night job. A career denotes accomplishment. However, do not lose sight of what God says should be your priority. The scripture says...*The unmarried woman careth for the things of the Lord, that she may be holy both in body and spirit ...* “*1 Corinthians 7:34*. Your main concern as a single Christian is serving God with your whole heart, mind, body, and soul. You will find your life so much more fulfilling if you reprioritize according to scripture.

#### **#5 I am still single because of my Pain**

Maybe, you have been down the road to marriage before and did not like the ride. Your motto became, “Burn me once, shame on you...burn me twice, shame on me.” I understand and hear you clearly—you do not want to be hurt again. I understand your rationale. No one likes the feeling of being hurt. You have a right to be angry, but you do not have permission to be bitter. Anger is inevitable; bitterness is optional. You can recover from anger, but it is difficult to overcome bitterness.

I remember eating green apples from my grandmother’s tree in the country. Occasionally, I would luck upon a juicy