



**DATE** March 4, 2018

**SPEAKER** David Smith

**TITLE** It's a Gift

**SERIES** Whether you're a newlywed or celebrating your golden anniversary, you've probably come to realize that a good marriage requires hard work. Let's talk about what people with healthy marriages know and do to keep their relationship strong.

1. God created us for relationships, which makes singleness hard. Reviewing what Paul says in 1 Corinthians 7, what is the best advice we can offer our single friends?
2. Historically many cultures have had mixed and confusing messages and practices regarding marriage. Why, after thousands of years, is there still confusion?
3. 1 Corinthians 7 is clear that Christianity values singleness. How has this been interpreted to pressure singles into a religious lifestyle not intended by God?
4. The early church countered the culture of the day by not pressuring people into marriage. What subtle signals still exist in the church that singles pick up on, sending mixed messages to the singles among us?
5. Discuss some examples of "seasons" in life when people should be wise and remain single? Give some examples of what could happen when entangled with a non-believer? Discuss why is it wise to walk away from someone who won't commit.
6. The world says "two halves make a whole" but Paul in verse 9 references the whole person. Revisit that passage and discuss what "whole" person means from God's perspective.
7. Pastor David gave us four principles from scripture. As a single, explain how you can depend on these principles to navigate your single life, and as married friends of singles, explain how you can apply these principles to your relationships with your single friends and relatives.

-it is God's will for you now (v. 7)

-you can trust God with your desire to marry (v. 25-28)

-God wants to build others up by you (v. 32-35)

-don't idolize marriage (v. 36-38)

8. As we reflect on this sermon series, whether single or married, what is one thing we can do in the context of our interpersonal relationships to point others to God?