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Child Challenges The Trinity

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Christ Challenges the Family - Singles

I. The General Rule for Living in the Western Christian Culture: Based on Bible
   A. Marriage: One man - one woman for life
      Gen. 2:24, Matt. 19:4-6, Rom 7:1-3, Eph. 5:24
   B. Children: Gen. 1:28
      Titus 2:4-5

Conc. Psychologists say this is good!
Families say this is good!
Doctors say this is good! etc.

II. No one anywhere says this is the only way.

The single life may be the minority life, but it can be happy, fulfilling, and blessed of Jehovah. John 10:10.

Note: A happy single life is 100 times better than a miserable married life!

A. Keep basic states of singleness
   Poor - 2. Separated. Married but estranged. Unhappy,
   Bad - 3. Divorced. Once married, but "cut off."
B. Singles in the Bible

1. Jesus. Cellebrate because of his mission.
3. Mary, Martha, Lazarus. Single, widowed widow?
4. Apostles (apparently, except Peter??)
5. Causes: Impotent men, or Unmarried men:
   a. Born impotent, deformed. Deficient etc.
   b._Mutilated in War.
   c. Willful celibates for religious reasons—to devote total life to God's service.

III. What about singles in the Kingdom of God?

A. Many promises to singles as Marriers: State of matrimony not involved

Rom. 8: 8-18. Eph. 1: 3.
Phil. 4: 4-7, 9, 11, 13.
B. Many Joys belong to Single Christians.
   1. Bible Study + Fellowship. In class, singles, couples.
   2. Worship with the S/F Family couples.
   3. Service:
      a. Visitation - Mijers, sponsored efforts.
      b. Teaching - Class mixing.
      c. Chores - Serving others, Mijers.
      d. Class socials, single + couples, etc.

IV Key Points to the Abundant Life:
   A. Humility: Prov. 5:6-7, Matt. 5:5.
Singlehood

Singlehood now represents a sizable portion of American society. Of a national population of 209,000,000 there are 50,000,000 single people. That means one single person for each family unit. How wonderful it is to discover the values and opportunities resident within the single life. The apostle Paul, himself a single person, wrote, "I wish that all were as I myself am. But each has his own special gift from God, one of one kind and one of another." I Cor. 7:7.

Paul does not elevate marriage or singlehood over the other. To him each state offers opportunities for Christian service. Paul further observes, "The unmarried man is anxious about the affairs of the Lord, how to please the Lord; but the married man is anxious about worldly affairs, how to please his wife, and his interests are divided. And the unmarried woman or girl is anxious about the affairs of the Lord..." I Cor. 7:32-34.

Single Christians must see themselves as successful servants of God, working to spread His kingdom. Otherwise, discouragement and loneliness will weaken their faith. The following are seven suggestions for successfully joining hands with God:

1. **Value Yourself as a child of God.** God has created you, lived and died for you and now offers salvation to you. You are valued because God loves you. "Rejoice, you are a child of the King."

2. **Entrust yourself totally to God's care.** Life becomes lonely and frightening when one feels totally responsible for self. Allow your understanding of God to grow so that he is greater than yourself. Psalm 139:2-4, 7-10.

3. **Do Your Part.** Not only has the Lord helped mankind throughout history, but he also always expected each person to do their own part. In simple language, "You can't get anywhere in a parked car." Trusting in God means relying on him but does not exempt one from doing his/her part.

4. **Live in the Present.** Turn loose of those past failures, disappointments and pains. A life fixated in the past cannot see the road ahead that leads to heaven.

Today is what God gives us, rejoice that you have it!

5. **Face Life Positively and Constructively.** Jesus said, "ask and ye shall receive, seek and ye shall find." God opens doors for those who care to see on the other side. Jesus also taught that "to him who has, more shall be given." As children of God we have every reason to be positive about our lives.


7. **The Power of Direction for Your Life is Within Your Own Hands.** God has made us free to choose who we will serve. He even balances Satan's temptations with options to do God's will, I Cor. 10:13. Don't ever say, "I can't help the way I feel or what I did." We can change anything we decide to change. God has promised it!

Records We Make

Children's Bible Hour ........................................... 58
Sunday A.M. Worship ............................................ 631
Sunday P.M. Worship ............................................ 411
Midweek (7/18) ....................................................... 539
Budget to date ...................................................... $186,000.00
Contribution to date ............................................. $164,246.81

In the forests along the west coast is found patches of bright green plants resembling a den of cobras. In fact, these plants are called cobra plants because of their resemblance. These cobra plants have the name for another reason as well. Like the poisonous cobra snake from which they derive their name, these plants are most deadly to insects.

A sweet nectar is formed inside the hood shaped leaf, attracting the insects inside. Once inside, the insect becomes confused because the inner part of the hood looks like so many transparent windows. The insect flies at the windows only to discover they are not his exit to freedom.

The floor of the hood is glassy smooth and soon the insect begins to slide down the plant's tube. The lower part of the tube is lined with downward pointing sharp hairs which prevent the insect from an upward climb to freedom. At the bottom of the tube is a pool of liquid that drowns and digests the insects who were first attracted by a sweet tasting liquid.

Bad habits are much like the cobra plant. Some things are attractive at first and may help us to be accepted by certain groups who are important to us. But once a bad habit grabs hold of us, it pulls us down, down, down, until we are comfortable in those evil surroundings. It is easy to rationalize a bad habit once you've started. You can hear excuses such as "I can quit anytime I want to", or "it's not as bad as some other things", and "be realistic, everyone does it." As sure as we begin to rationalize the reasons for our bad habits, will we begin to slip down the tube into the liquid and drown in our evil ways. We will wake up one morning to realize that what once seemed so innocent and easy is now so deadly.

Sometimes our bad habits can consume all of our energies and our good influence is vanished. The Lord said in Jeremiah 18:15, "Yet my people have forgotten me; they burn incense to worthless idols which made them stumble in their ways". And when our bad habits cause us to continually stumble, we bring reproach upon the church, II Pet. 2:2, "Many will follow their shameful ways and will bring the way of truth into disrepute". But be assured that God has provided us a way of escaping from the clutches of our bad habits. I Cor. 10:13 "And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out (Continued on page 4)