



## Lesson 12

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### *Loving Our Single Adult Children*

by Betty Dahlhausen (Panel)

*We have not ceased  
to pray for you and to ask  
that you may be filled  
with the knowledge of His will  
in all spiritual wisdom and understanding,  
so that you will walk  
in a manner worthy of the Lord,  
to please Him in all respects,  
bearing fruit in every good work  
and increasing in the knowledge of God.  
Colossians 1:9-10*

1. *How did you teach your child AND YOURSELF contentment with his singleness?*

It takes much prayer and adjusting of our spirits to remain content because the natural man is restless and unsatisfied.

“The truth is that no external feature or circumstance keeps someone single or gets him married. The marital status of each of God’s children is divinely decreed. And if God has called you to singleness, there is nothing you can do without stepping off the path of obedience to change that.”

Brownback

“If you are single it’s because for the time being at least, God has determined that you will most glorify Him & come to enjoy Him most fully as a single. If the time comes when these two ends will be achieved through marriage, God will change your life so you will be married.”

Brownback

Contentment can't occur until knowledge of His control is blended with an equal understanding that His sovereignty is governed by His love for us. When we get a grip of God's sovereignty, and believe that His will is for our own good and more importantly, His glory, this will lead to contentment.

1 Corinthians 7:7 . . . *each man has his own gift from God; one in this manner, and another in that.*

Romans 8:32 *He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things?*

Ps 63:3 *[His] steadfast love is better than life.* ESV

Jeremiah 29:11 *"For I know the plans that I have for you", declares the LORD, "plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope."*

Colossians 2:10 . . . *and in Him you have been made complete.*

Psalms 84:11 *No good thing does He withhold from those who walk uprightly.*

Habakkuk 3:17-18 *Although the fig tree shall not blossom, neither shall fruit be in the vines; the labor of the olive shall fail, and the fields shall yield no meat, the flock shall be cut off from the fold, and there shall be no herd in the stalls, yet I will exult in the LORD, I will joy in the God of my salvation.* KJV

2. *How did you encourage your young adult to get involved in the community of believers?*

“Let not our longing slay the appetite of our living.”  
Jim Elliot

Galatians 6:10 . . . *While we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith.*

3. *What factors determine whether single adults live at home or on their own?*

Hedges and fences are not a bad thing. There are temptations available to those who live on their own that aren't options to those living at home.

Genesis 2:24 *Therefore shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall cleave unto his wife . . . KJV*

4. *What did you mothers of sons do to challenge your young man to “find a wife?”*

If you have had an opportunity to spend time with a godly young lady, take it as a gift, but hold it loosely in your hand, allowing God to either remove that gift, or confirm it.

Genesis 2:18 *It is not good for the man to be alone.*

Proverbs 18:22 *He who finds a wife finds a good thing.*

5. *How do you respond to a potential suitor?  
How do you stop an unwanted relationship?*

When we have had to say no to a young man, I have tried to encourage him that I will pray for him in the coming year to be greatly blessed by the Lord—and that he should keep seeking the Lord’s will in another direction.

6. *How do you handle differing preferences / convictions / ideas, especially when there are younger children in the home?*

“The truth about the choices we make is plain. We don’t consistently choose the Lord because we don’t really desire Him . . . and we don’t really desire Him because we’re not convinced that choosing Him will result in our happiness.”

Brownbeck

7. *How much should I expect my older children to be involved in the running of the home?*

## 8. *What are things we should or should NOT say to singles?*

The level of relationship with a person dictates the questions you should ask.

Hebrews 13:5 *Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have . . .* KJV

### *Resources*

Brownback, Lydia. *Fine China is For Single Women, Too.*

Marshall, Jennifer A. *Now and Not Yet: Making Sense of Single Life in the 21st Century.*

McCulley, Carolyn. *Did I Kiss Marriage Good-bye?*

Paulsen, Heather Arnel. *Emotional Purity: an Affair of the Heart.*

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