TAKEAWAY

Whether already married or not yet married, the desire for marriage exists in the hearts of nearly all people. This does not necessarily mean that all will marry, but simply that the God-given longing for marriage is common to many.

TAKEAWAY

While most people are satisfied with their current relationship status, over half say they regret a past dating relationship. It is important to be present in our season of singleness, not constantly searching for the next significant other. It's also vital to give prayerful thought when choosing whom and when to date.

TAKEAWAY

The sobering reality is that large numbers of not-yet-married people not only think persistently about marriage, but often worry about finding a spouse, feel defined by the lack of a spouse, and are tempted to idolize marriage. The beautiful alternative is living fully and joyfully for God now, right where he has you.

TAKEAWAY

Simple practices like reading the Bible, praying, and spending time with fellow Christians help us cultivate a spirit of contentment when it comes to our relationship status. The Lord directs us toward these disciplines for our joy!

TAKEAWAY

The trends clearly indicate that the more dating relationships we are involved in, the greater the chance that we will regret a relationship and suffer from a weaker spiritual life. While multiple dating relationships aren't inherently wrong, we should think carefully about our motives and seek contentment in whatever stage of life God has placed us.

God designed singleness and dating to be unique seasons for devotion and usefulness to the Lord. Yet these seasons are often viewed as life stages that must simply be endured on the road to marriage. But life was never meant to be mainly about love and marriage. Our call is to learn to live and date for more.

In May 2017, we asked nearly 7,000 readers questions about their experiences with regard to dating and marriage. Some of the results from that survey are presented below.

TAKEAWAY

The results of focusing too much of our attention on marriage are not what we intend. What ends up happening is that things like worry, frustration, idolatry, and discouragement are multiplied in our lives. The better way is to cultivate joy by looking for opportunities to serve and glorify God in the present.

Life Is Never Mainly about Love and Marriage. So Learn to Live and Date for More.