



# The Gospel-Centered Home

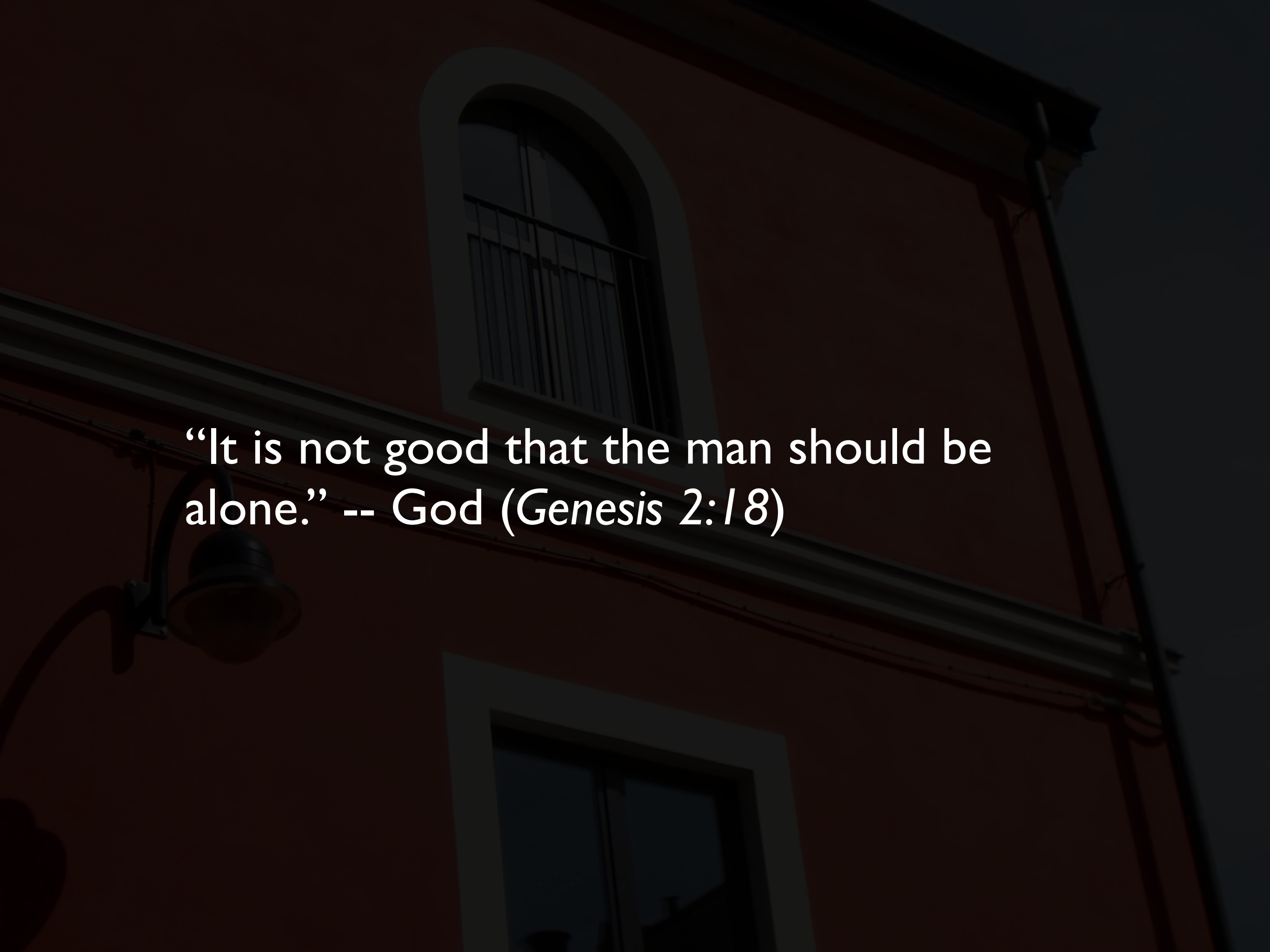
Singleness

Embracing your current state of singleness as a gift from God in order to allow you to maximize your effectiveness for the gospel.

*or*

Single for the gospel.



A dark, low-angle photograph of a building facade. The image is mostly in shadow, with a window featuring a metal grille visible in the upper center. A street lamp is visible on the left side. The overall tone is somber and moody.

“It is not good that the man should be alone.” -- God (*Genesis 2:18*)

A dark, low-angle photograph of a building facade. The image is mostly in shadow, with a prominent arched window featuring a metal grille. Below the window, a hanging lamp is visible. The overall tone is somber and architectural.

“Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth..”  
-- God (*Genesis 1:28a*)

# Salvation in OT

Salvation is completely tied to marriage and childbearing in the Old Testament.

1. God's promise to Adam & Eve.
2. God's promise to Abraham.
3. God's promise to David.



# Promise to Adam/Eve

“I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head and you shall bruise his heel.” -- God (*Genesis 3:15*)

# Promise to Abraham

“Behold, you have given me no offspring, and a member of my household will be my heir.”

-- Abraham (*Genesis 15:3*)

“This man shall not be your heir; your very own son shall be your heir...Look toward the heaven, and number the stars...So shall be your offspring.” -- God (*Genesis 15:4-5*)



# Promise to David

“When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.”

-- God (*2 Samuel 7:12-13*)



# Singleness in OT

Singleness and lack of offspring in the OT meant the blotting out of one's name -- being forgotten -- and therefore was something to grieve over.

# A Strange Shift

Towards the end of Isaiah we see a strange shift...

- Isaiah 54:1
- Isaiah 56:3-5

What is the basis of this shift?

- Isaiah 53:4-10



# Salvation in OT

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# Salvation in NT

Salvation is completely tied to new birth and Jesus in the New Testament.

“Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.” -- Jesus (*John 3:3*)

“And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believe in him may have eternal life.” -- Jesus (*John 3:14-15*)



# An Even Stranger Shift

Jesus says some things that are remarkably strange regarding family.


- Mark 3:31-35
- Luke 11:27-28

# The Strangest Shift

Perhaps the strangest shift of all, is that Jesus and Paul make singleness, in light of the gospel, no longer something to grieve over, but something to embrace.

- Matthew 19:12
- I Corinthians 7



A dark, low-angle photograph of a building facade. The image is mostly in shadow, with a prominent arched window featuring a metal grille. To the left, a hanging lamp with a bell-shaped shade is visible. The overall tone is somber and contemplative.

Embracing your current state of singleness as  
a gift from God in order to allow you to  
maximize your effectiveness for the gospel.

or

Single for the gospel.

What keeps you from embracing your current state of singleness as a gift from God in order to allow you to maximize your effectiveness for the gospel?

or

What keeps you from being single for the gospel?



The answer is idolatry.

There are many *idols of singleness*, but the foundation that these idols rest upon is unbelief.

We don't truly believe (confessional) that our singleness is a gift from God for the sake of the gospel, because if we did we would live differently (functional).

# Idols of Singleness

The idols of singleness, which keep us from embracing gospel-centeredness, or those things that preoccupy us are...

- Childishness
- Singleness
- Materialism
- Sexuality
- Marriage



# The Gospel Answer

The answer to the problem is not to fight the idols (the what), but to fight the foundational issue (the why) -- our battle is against unbelief.

# The Gospel Answer

Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God. But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called “today,” that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.

-- *Hebrews 3:12-13*



# The Gospel Answer

## Faith

Believing the truth of the gospel. Jesus is the Lord and the greatest thing is to serve him. He is better than childishness, singleness, materialism, sexuality, and marriage.

# The Gospel Answer

## Gospel-Community

The community serves to exhort and encourage your faith.

- Exhorting you to repent and turn from the idols that hinder your singleness for the gospel.
- Encouraging your faith in Jesus, whose plans and gifts are wise and good.



