DR. MYLES MUNROE



Keys for Living Single

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KEYS for LIVING SINGLE

DR. MYLES MUNROE

WHITAKER
HOUSE

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Introduction

Whether you are unmarried or married, your goal in life should be to “live single.” Singleness is a greatly misunderstood concept in today’s culture. It has come to mean “incomplete” or even “of less value.” Yet God’s design is that each of us be truly single—whole, mature, and confident human beings who know who we are, and who are developing the distinct personalities, gifts, and abilities God created us to manifest.

In *Keys for Living Single*, you will discover essential truths for a meaningful and satisfying life. You can be free from the tyranny of trying to please others, from the hindrance of living vicariously through other people, and from believing you can be complete only through another person.

You were created to be separate, unique, and whole. You have a special purpose to fulfill in this world. Discover your true self—and live accordingly!

—Dr. Myles Munroe

Singleness" is a myth. To be truly single means to be all one (alone), separate, unique, and whole.

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No human being can meet your ego, soul, or spiritual needs; you might as well settle all of that with God. You are fit or ready for marriage only when you are totally fulfilled in Him.

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Until you are a separate, single, unique, and whole person, you are *not* ready to marry!

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Many have confused "singleness" with "being alone." There should never be a time when you cease to be a single being who is unique and whole.

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If a state of singleness means "to be unique and whole," then to be totally single should be every Christian's number one goal.

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Instead of running from being single, you should be running toward singleness.

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In Genesis 2:18, God said *"It is not good that man should be**alone**."* He didn't say it wasn't good for him to be single. There is a profound difference between the two.

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To not be alone, all you need are other humans to be your companions and close friends.

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Marriage was not instituted to solve the problems of being alone—human beings were created as an answer to that problem.

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Many would be wise to consider Adam in reference to singleness. He was so totally unique and whole that he did not even know that he was alone.

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The vast majority of marital problems arise because a husband or wife (or both) has not seen himself or herself as a unique, worthy individual—that is, he or she had a bad self-image, was not whole or separate, and always depended on some other person for happiness. They never maximized their singleness.

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Marriage will not solve "aloneness." Many people are in nonworking marriages in which they pray to become free, sleep in separate beds, or operate in tension. Marriages like that create more aloneness than those who are single could ever fathom.

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God will not choose your mate for you. If He did, that would violate the free will and power of choice He gave you.

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If God chose your mate for you, He would be taking responsibility for your relationship; then, if it failed, the blame could be transferred to Him. God only

presents; you choose.

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Many people are misguided by the misconception that God has created only one specific person on this planet for them to marry. That means the odds are one in six billion for you to find that "right one."

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If God has chosen one individual out of six billion on this planet just for you, and He did so without your knowledge and permission (and without the other person's), then why would He not also choose salvation for you? That is a much more vital area of your life.

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Whether or not you use the Word, wisdom, or the characteristics of God's nature to make your choice of a lifetime mate, you must take full responsibility for your choice and all the consequences that come with your decision.

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Providing marriage prospects is God's responsibility, but choosing a mate is yours. Rely on the assistance of the Holy Spirit, but do not attempt to transfer the responsibility of choice to Him.

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How much have you refined your separateness and uniqueness from others'? A relationship is only as good as what the individuals involved bring to it.

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If you are able to grasp the revelation of the difference between being "single" and being "alone," then you will never despise the state of being unmarried, and you will not marry based on wrong reasons.

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Until you get to the state of being totally whole, totally unique, and totally separate—with the knowledge that you don't need anyone to complete you—you are not ready to marry.

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If you do not yet know who you are, then why do you think you will "find yourself" with someone else?

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When you reach out frantically to others for the wrong motives, you will exploit and use them sexually, financially, or emotionally to meet your own needs without ever caring about theirs.

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Many have set marriage and "living happily ever after" as their goal in life. The goal of the Christian is to become the separate, unique, and whole person the Lord wants him or her to be, and the vessel that will hold the Treasure, which is Jesus.

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How you use time determines your life. You are what you do with time.

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No one can ever give you enough time or attention to make up for the emptiness where you are supposed to be full. If you are empty of a real self, then the other person will be unhappy because you have nothing to give back.

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When you become consumed with being who you are and focused on
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fulfilling your purpose, then you will be ready to give up your aloneness in favor of togetherness with someone else who is separate, whole, and unique.

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Your marriage will only be as successful as your singleness, because you can bring to a marriage only what you are as a person alone.

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Being single is the highest calling in the realm of relationships because a successful marriage is the product of two people being successfully single.

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Find out who you are in Christ and as a person, and then come to terms with that person. Knowing who you are is the first step toward wholeness, and accepting yourself is the second step.

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If you need to get married to be fulfilled or loved, you are not ready for marriage. The very thing that makes you need to get married will become the problem in your marriage.

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In Matthew 22:39, Jesus told the people to *"love your neighbor as yourself."* You cannot love your neighbor if you have no love for yourself.

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The next time someone says to you, "I love you," try answering by asking, "But do you love you?"

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Before you love others, you must love yourself.

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If you do not love yourself, you will look to someone else to make up for that absence of love. You'll expect from that person more than he or she can possibly give in order to compensate for what you lack within yourself.

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It is complicated enough to develop singleness while you are unmarried. Why add complications to complication by marrying an "un-single" person, and then have two people in the same house still trying to develop singleness?

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Do not let people rush you into getting married. Some people are not married yet because they are smart enough not to hurry into it like others have.

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I need a man." "I need a woman." No, you need God, and you need His holiness.

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God is saying, "Please get your act together as an unmarried person. Get your standards and values settled. Build on the Rock, Christ Jesus, and set your feet on the foundation of the Word so that the pressures of this world will not move you."

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If you are unmarried, and you know that you do not want to live in that state for the rest of your life, then now is the time to become truly single so that your marriage will be successful in God.

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You should build “you” before you ever think about building a marriage.

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Anyone who does not know who he or she is becomes fair game for someone else to mold into another image.

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A *merry heart does good, like medicine, but a broken spirit dries the bones”* (Proverbs 17:22). Bones are the factories for blood, and life is in the blood. Anyone who touches your heart also touches your blood and therefore touches your very life and existence.

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You should not need someone else to make you whole, and you definitely should not enter into a marriage in which the other person needs you to make him or her whole. Nobody has time to be dealing with an empty or half-empty spouse.

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Solomon said, *“A man who has friends must himself be friendly”* (Proverbs 18:24). That means if you are lonely, you should ask yourself what kind of friend you are.

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Are you afraid to be alone? Some people always want other people around because they do not like themselves or because they are so empty that they have to live through others.

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People who have to constantly have the television or radio on or involve themselves in reading or telephone conversations when they are alone are usually quite empty people who seek to be filled with something or somebody outside of themselves.

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God does not "choose" a mate for you. However, if you ask Him, He will bring along one whom He knows is suitable for you to choose. Again, your spouse must be of your choosing—either to pick or accept—or the marriage will not work.

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Do not "claim" a particular person to be your mate without finding out God's opinion first.

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Be wary of people "prophesying" a mate for you—that is, "So-and-so is to marry So-and-so." Usually, that is wishful thinking or someone trying to impose his thinking on you. In some cases, it is even a trap set for you by Satan.

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When you find yourself attracted to someone else, you'd better find out why very quickly! It could be only sensual attraction; it could be that you feel the person fills an empty area in you; it could be that you are feeling the pressure of the world to get married.

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God has a special feeling for those who are satisfied and fulfilled with Him alone. A person in a state of singleness is a joy to the Lord.

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Unmarried Christians should be so consumed by God and His will, and so preoccupied and committed to finding out who they are in Him, that they are not distracted by a search for another person.

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People who have not become truly single, who do not know who they are in Christ, or who do not have a firm identity of their own, will always reach for someone else to hold them up.

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If you choose an unmarried life out of religious pressure, false spirituality, or being "disappointed in love," then you are not giving God a whole and truly single person. You are cheating Him and yourself.

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If you know the unmarried life is not for you, then begin to ask God to prepare you for marriage. Ask Him to help you to become a whole person, not a dependent leech.

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Do not slip into "losing yourself" in someone else. You will become a parasite, and either you will be sucking life from the other person, or the other person will be taking life from you.

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I do not exist without you."
"I cannot get along without you."
"If you go away, my world will crumble."
Those statements are not romantic! They reflect an addictive dependency—instead of being addicted to a substance, you are addicted to a person.

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Get prepared for marriage by yourself so you know for certain that no matter what comes—storms, floods, the deepest valleys, or the highest mountains—you will be able to make it by yourself. Then you will be the kind of person prepared to receive the marriage vow.

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The only people God puts together in marriage are those who have the Holy Spirit within them. Everyone else, man marries.

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You are not a whole, single being who is prepared for marriage until you are prepared never to get a divorce.

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Two born-again, Spirit-filled believers are qualified to marry each other because they should be able to handle problems through love and forgiveness and through walking in the fruits of the Spirit.

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Do you have one eye on God and
the other on the guys or girls? Then you are not totally whole yet. When both eyes are
single-mindedly focused on the kingdom of God and His righteousness, then God will say, “Now I see that it is not good for you to be alone. It is time for marriage.”

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True love is not a feeling; it is a choice
and a decision.

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If you're thinking of getting married just for physical gratification, then know that your marriage will be troubled from day one and will not last.

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You are not a whole, single being who is prepared for marriage until you are prepared never to get a divorce.

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You are more effectively prepared for marriage when you do not "need" to be married. Your pursuit in life should not be marriage but "singleness."

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Shake yourself out of the mode that causes you to casually or traditionally consider marriage. Know that marriage is the sacrifice and death of exclusivity on the altar of love.

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If you are considering marriage, are you willing to share your time, privacy, material goods, secrets, ambitions, dreams, goals, visions, and desires with another person?

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Spend your time and energy on the Lord and His work. Preoccupy yourself with preparing for the person God is preparing to present to you.

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You are the result of your own use of time. Whatever you did with your time in the past has made you what you are today, with your memories and regrets.

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Whatever you feel is important and necessary, yet is causing you to sin, get rid of. It is harmful to you, not helpful.

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If you marry just because of passion, your marriage will be passionately destroyed eventually.

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As far as getting married is concerned, do not join the army until you are prepared to die and never defect.

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If you are lonely, find someone else who is alone (not lonely or half-empty) and make friends. Begin to reach out to other successful people who are unmarried like you.

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Do not love somebody just because he or she looks nice—looks are subject to change. Love someone because of his or her attitude, character, and inner spirit being.

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If you want to be successful, do not keep company with failures. Remember, iron sharpens iron.

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No matter how much you love someone, find out if the person serves God and how he or she serves Him. Make sure you carry the same firewood to burn on the same altar before the same sacrifice.

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Marriage is more than a legal contract to physically sleep together and share family financial obligations. Marriage is the joining and uniting of two souls wherein lies the center of submission, conviction, values, and moral and spiritual perceptions. If the souls are not compatible, the relationship is on the course of tragic disaster.

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You may think now that “love conquers all,” but that is just until the honeymoon is over!

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Dating between those who have different religions can cause problems. If what you believe is contrary to what the other person believes, you are headed for trouble.

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Never date a married person! Do not set yourself up for emotional turmoil by thinking you’re only being that person’s confidant or “single” friend.

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If you see someone consistently, be careful; you are forming “soul ties” or emotional bondings. You are becoming dependent on one another emotionally, even if not physically.

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Developing soul ties is like throwing cobwebs at one another until you become totally webbed together.

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Take stock of your assets and the advantages of the single life. Are things

really as bad as they seem?

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If you readily detect that someone is not a prospective marriage partner, then why waste your time and energy dating, communicating with, and sharing your hopes, dreams, and inner thoughts with that person?

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The minute you commit yourself to someone else, then anything that happens to break up the relationship is
an emotional divorce.

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You have to guard your heart because out of it flows *"the issues of life"* (Proverbs 4:23). Emotional bonding—whether positive or negative—results in a loss when it is broken.

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Until you become whole, you will always be dependent on other people's opinions for your own self-worth.

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Women, when you go out on dates, do not just sit there talking about mushy stuff. Ask your date what his vision of you is and what he sees in you, because whatever he sees is what he will cultivate.

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Instant relationships are no guarantee of instant relief from loneliness, pain, hurt feelings, or damaged emotions.

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You can spend so much time looking for who you want that you have no time to be who you are.

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When a relationship fails, do not just move quickly to another one. Step back and see what your contribution was to the failed relationship.

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If you have not changed for the better in some way from your relationship experiences, then what is to prevent your next relationship from going the same way, or worse?

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You can cause others to overcome by the word of your testimony. It's okay to try to help friends whose broken relationship experiences you can identify with, but not until you are at least on the way to healing.

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You can always tell where you are by whether or not you can talk freely about your experiences without pain, negative emotions, or entangling your mind again in sin.

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Hanging on to and being "friends" with people you know are not God's best for you or may be downright wrong for you is a sure sign that you are weaving a security blanket to comfort yourself from emotional trauma. Your security and comfort need to be in Christ and the Word.

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Take custody of yourself. Though you may have been hurt, it's time for you to

take responsibility for restoring your life according to God's principles and to submit to His healing process.

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Take your roots out of other people and instead develop the freedom to share your fruit with them.

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There is an old saying, "Marry in haste; repent at leisure." That means you probably will regret your haste for quite a long time.

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Just because you are not married yet, do not panic. Panic always begins with a fear of some kind, and it causes you to sell yourself short.

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There is no way you can ever have peace in your heart if you live your life just to find a mate.

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You cannot live a healthy life and live in the past. Don't let the failures of the past interfere with your future.

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It is more important to be "single" than to be married. In fact, it is safer to be unmarried than married, if you are not yet truly single.

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Be truly single so that you can hear the Lord's will for you. Marriage—for both parties—should never be for any motive other than God's will.
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Men, before you go chasing a woman, make sure she is someone you can chase until death do you part.

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Common presumptions about being single or unmarried:
If you are unmarried, then you are incomplete.
If you are incomplete (unmarried), then you are unhappy.
The consequence of these ideas is the ridiculous presumption that you can't be happy until you are married.

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Singleness is an honor. It is something God gave you before anything else.

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Singleness is not a temporary status.
It is a quality of life.

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When you are unequivocally single, you are whole and unique in yourself, and you know that you are irreplaceable.

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Men are to work, and to cultivate and protect others. Any man not fulfilling those functions is malfunctioning.

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Don't sit around sulking because you are unmarried. Make the most of every opportunity and maximize the moments in your life.
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Redeem the time; do not squander it doing foolish things.

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If you are preoccupied by looking for someone to be all things to you, then you will have no one and nothing to give that other person.

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People remain unmarried for various reasons. It does not mean that something is wrong with them. Understand that it's okay to be unmarried.

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Jesus said the greatest commandment is to love God with your whole heart, and the second greatest commandment is to love your neighbor to the same degree that you love yourself. Therefore, the key is loving yourself, not other people.

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If you are not married and you are happy, stay happy. Only get married when you meet a person who can add to your happiness.

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While you are unmarried, view marriage realistically. It is wonderful and has its rewards, but it is also full of challenges. It is wrong for you as an unmarried individual to view marriage as the key to your happiness.

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If you are not yet successful at being single—if you cannot control your emotions, your passions, your feelings, your attitudes, or your behavior—then you are not prepared for marriage.
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Marriage is not the prerequisite for your personal fulfillment.

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It is critical that you not be in a hurry to get married. Relax, enjoy your life, and move according to God's leading.

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Spend your time making plans for your future rather than reliving your past.

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Do not be so desperate to get married that you grab anything that comes along.

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When you allow the pressure to get married to define you, you will execute irrational and poor judgment and will create a sense of desperation and fear because of your anxiousness to find a mate.

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Do you conform to the world's standards? Do you always have to busy yourself or date on Friday or Saturday nights just to prove that you are marketable?

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Some people are so bent on finding someone that they do not spend any time developing the person they want to give to the person they find.

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Satan knows just how to get you and will magnify your misconceptions about

marriage and singleness, if you let him.

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Too many precious, unmarried people live lives full of depression and frustration because of self-imposed misery due to society's pressures on them to be married.

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If you are unhappy because all your friends are married and you are still unmarried, then perhaps you should talk to a married friend who will give you a realistic idea of marriage.

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Never develop a distrust and hatred of God, blaming Him for your own self-imposed unhappiness because you think you should be married by now.

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Do not allow the devil to turn you into a self-hater with a jealous spirit just because you are unmarried.

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The cry in most unmarried people's hearts is, "Jesus, You forgot me!" Let me tell you something: He didn't forget you. He's protecting you!

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Marriage is not necessary for God's anointing or for ministry.

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Complete people are the most interesting people in the world. Those who have a vision, goals, purposes, and plans for their lives are the most attractive. A
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whole person knows who he is, why he is at a certain place, where he is going, and how he is going to get there.

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When you are truly single, you know that you are different from everybody else, and you have a wholeness that can be shared with other people.

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Let's get this straight: To be single means you are a separate, unique, and whole person. To be unmarried means that you are not married—you aren't committed in matrimonial covenant with another person. Don't add negative connotations to being single or unmarried.

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Make yourself so single that someone has to single you out to touch you.

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If you haven't mastered your singleness, then the fact that you are not a whole and unique person with a good self-concept will always show up in your relationships.

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Marriage Myths:

• Marriage is the key to happiness.
• Marriage is the key to completeness.
• Marriage is the key to fulfillment.
• Marriage is the solution to loneliness.
• Marriage is necessary for spiritual maturity or leadership.
• Marriage creates love.

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The Bible teaches that you should be married to conceive a child; however, you do not need to be married to be a mentor.

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There is no way a person can be totally "single" before you marry him or her. Yet you should at least make sure that much of the work is done. You do not want to have to start from scratch!

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Make sure the person you marry is whole. Life is too short to spend it babysitting a spouse. You want to be a husband or a wife to someone, not his or her parent.

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You do not want to marry someone whom you have to constantly pull up. You want someone who is able to walk with you in agreement. The Bible says, *"Can two walk together, unless they are agreed?"* (Amos 3:3).

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The more single you become, the more you will protect yourself from being used by people.

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If you are not married, it is important for you to concentrate on being single more than on being married because marriage will expose your lack of "singleness."

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If you are not careful, you will waste years being preoccupied with and worrying about pursuing prospective mates at the expense of your own personal

development and refinement.

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When you work hard on yourself, educating and improving yourself, you will cause others who want to be with you to “come up a little higher!”

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True singleness creates a sense of value within you. It causes you and others to regard you highly.

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When you truly value yourself, you will never sell yourself cheaply.

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Enjoy your unmarried state while developing true singleness.

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One more for the road...again.
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About the Author

Dr. Myles Munroe is an international motivational speaker, best-selling author, educator, leadership mentor, and consultant for government and business. Traveling extensively throughout the world, Dr. Munroe addresses critical issues affecting the full range of hu-man, social, and spiritual development. The central theme of his message is the transformation of followers into leaders and the maximization of individual potential.

Founder and president of Bahamas Faith Ministries International (BFMI), a multidimensional organization headquartered in Nassau, Bahamas, Dr. Munroe is also the founder and executive producer of a number of radio and television programs aired worldwide. He has a B.A. from Oral Roberts University, an M.A. from the University of Tulsa, and has been awarded a number of honorary doctoral degrees.

Dr. Munroe and his wife, Ruth, travel as a team and are involved in teaching seminars together. Both are leaders who minister with sensitive hearts and international vision. They are the proud parents of two college graduates, Charisa and Chairo (Myles, Jr.).

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