

Sermon Series:	Transforming Society
Sermon Topic:	Singles: Know your Destiny by Rev Christina Ong
Sermon Text:	Philippians 3:13-14
Sermon Emphasis:	Singles, by choice or by circumstances, are a rising number in Singapore. We are called to understand their potential and struggle if we are to impact them for Christ. But singles are not lesser than the married. They can be powerful influencers in the Kingdom of God, and they should be partnered by the Body of Christ to finish the race of life.

A. Differentiate Between Singles And Singles In The Lord

- Singles without the Lord: tend to follow pop culture, eg. Feel left on the shelf, not wanted, what the Hollywood says about singles. Even married couples feel alone and dissatisfied in a married relationship.
- Singles, married or in a relationship without the Lord as the centre of the relationship, you will never be fulfilled.
- If you are a Christian, you will discover the joy of living the abundant life, whether young, old, married, single, widowed.
- Our fulfilment does not depend on our marital status, but on our intimacy with God. Only God can complete us, no one else.
- “Singles will reap far better blessings than the blessings of marriage and children” - John Piper
 - Singles have more time and resources to offer to God and serve the Lord. And singles will know their destiny when they discover their identify in God.
 - Like Paul, Paul knew his calling and he know that no relationship is ultimate, only the relationship with Christ is Ultimate. Paul’s whole life changed after meeting God and he did not let his past affect his identify in Christ. There is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus – Romans 8:1
- Whatever painful trials (rejection, abandonment) you have gone through before it is not wasted trials, God can use that to mould us and prepare us to be wounded healers to others.

B. Do Not Let Your Past Determine Who You Are In Christ.

- God’s purpose is not limited by your past.
- God specialises in giving people a fresh start.
- Many of us live with deception in our mind that allows the devil to shrink and belittle us. But God says “no”. He will raise you up as sons and daughters.
- Proverbs 4: 23 – Be careful of what you think, because your thoughts will run your life.
- Important to encourage each other and mould each other, the tongue is powerful to bless each other. Let God’s word transform who we are

C. Discover Your Calling And Goal In Life

- To know your destiny you need to know your calling. So that you can serve the lord with singles to bring the glory of God.
- Like Paul, he asked God to show him what his calling was and God sent and set him apart to bring the gospel to the lost world. He was so resolute to overcome the obstacles.
- We need to ask God: how are we wired, what is our skillset

- Many of us go for corporate upgrading eg. Accounting management, but very little of us invest our time and money to grow our desire and skillset God has given to us to serve him. We need to rise up and press on towards the goal God has for us.

D. Develop Network and Community Support For Singles In Our Midst.

- We are called as one body to really look out for the singles in our midst.
 - Pastor Christina was the main caregiver to her mum, she struggled when she had to care for her mother alone to carry her mum and bring her to the doctor when she had stroke, but the church came alongside to help care for her mum and even asked Pastor Christina to rest they will care for her. With that she was able to finish her study in TTC and to fulfil the destiny God has called her to be.
 - Do not let the challenges of life derail us from the destiny God has called us to do. He is always with us and never leave us.
 - Philippians 1:6 – Be confident of this one thing; God began a good work in you and He will finish it.
- Pastor Christina's depression story, she couldn't talk or eat, doctors tried all the kind of medicines but it did not work and she had to go for ECT. On the 6th session she recovered and went round praying for others, and there was this lady who came up and asked for prayer to receive Jesus. God even used her when she was at her weakest.

E. Discover Your God Given Purpose On Earth

- Our purpose on earth is heavenward, to set us apart to use us for God's purposes.
- To keep our eyes on things above and not on things below.
- Singleness is not called to be selfish, none of us is called to be self focused, we are called to accomplish God's purpose in life.
- The 2 greatest days in life is the day you were born and the day you discover your purpose in life.
- Look around at those singles, singles by choice or out of circumstances, go reach out to them especially on occasions like Christmas, CNY, to show love and concern for them.

In Summary

- Jesus is coming back soon, what are we doing with our lives?
- Don't let the past hold you back, offer your life as a living and holy sacrifice to God and God will do the rest.
- It is always nice to hear at the end from our Master, "Well Done Good and Faithful Servant".
- We need to rise up and to support the singles amongst our community to help them to fulfil their destiny God has called them to.

Discussion Questions

1. How am I pressing on toward the goal that God has prepared for me?
2. What can we do as a Church to encourage the singles to finish well in their race for God?