

FOLLOW-UP QUESTION 5

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## What has your experience been with “Singles Ministry”?

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### Responses

I think that it could be a wonderful and encouraging thing, but I typically avoid them as those I have encountered in the past made me uncomfortable and felt more like a competitive matching service than an encouragement. I haven't been involved in many though. At each church in the US I attended longer-term before moving overseas, I have been involved in starting a young professionals group/house church (it wasn't strictly singles, but it was college age and above without kids). I am currently involved in a trial Titus 2 group for women without children, both single and married.

It has its ups and downs. People come and go very frequently. Seems when people leave the group there is rarely support for singles ministries from them.

It's something that people loved...in the past. It's nearly nonexistent now and while everyone sees the need, it's not a priority. Singles ministry gets lumped in with a young adults' ministry and then eventually lines blur between that and college. Again, not a priority. The other thing is there are people older than me who also deserve a ministry space but the expected age for that is much younger than they are.

Positive mostly, singleness through is usually framed in those settings as 'a season' or a 'transition' to another phase when you are in 'a more meaningful place' in your work, or your family, in a settled relationship or restored into a new marriage after a divorce, etc.

We have a vibrant ministry with many regular activities at my large church, but it's not my jam. I find many of the singles fall into one of two categories - young in faith and/or immature and uncommitted, or perhaps more mature but stuck in the behaviors that keep them single. I haven't connected with many emotionally and spiritually mature people to be good friends with through this. I also think the church assumes all singles are immature and need help and milk instead of meat. There

are no opportunities to plug in at a deeper level specifically through singles stuff. I have gotten that via other channels, but I have to seek my own opportunities.

We really don't have a singles ministry per se. We have a gals group that meets for cards, parties, etc. It's been very encouraging to me.

I have never been part of a congregation that has had a singles ministry. We have always had a "young adults" gathering. The problem with that, is that most young adults turn into young couples and families, and the singles are often the 5th wheel.

Haven't really been a part of a singles ministry. Some efforts were tried in getting one started at [local church], but it's just a tough and awkward group to form.

I personally love the activities that are done. It's usually a healthy environment where many singles can come together and just create friendships, play games, have a potluck type of setting.

There is not a lot of emphasis put on Singles. In Europe they assume that single means dating, so many people in relationships avoid going to our Singles Retreat (I organize this with 2 others). Also there seems to be a stigma, so people are afraid of going because they do not want to seem desperate. I think if churches made it a normal thing to be single and spend time with each other to build each other up, people would be less afraid of sending of the wrong message with getting involved in Singles activities.

I've never had any experiences in ministry directly pointed at my singleness, however I've found that being single has allowed me to minister in some pretty awesome ways that I wouldn't have been able to if in a relationship.

Frustrating at prior churches but once I started going to my current church which doesn't have a specific singles it's wonderful. It is now a non-issue at church.

Earlier in my life I took a leadership role in forming our singles group and getting it up and running.

It's usually directed at college age and 20s. Or it's open to everyone and there's too big an age range to really make the group enjoyable. I've been in them where the focus was all on finding a mate.

Honestly, it's not the greatest. Although I've heard of wonderful, vibrant singles ministries, what I've experienced has mostly been either post-college kids or oddball groups led by married people that felt more oriented to matchmaking than service or fellowship. I gave up on it.

Often it is a "Youth Group" for adults who are single.

It is the most encouraging church group I have been a part of. But sometimes I feel frustrated - partly because the stage of life I'm in feels like an in-between stage and I want more stability. The other part of my frustration is from my desire to be able to serve the church better and I struggle to find ways to do that.

Our congregation doesn't have a singles ministry. I've talked to a couple of the elders about the need for one. In one case I was met with "I'm afraid the men would just see it as a meat market."

I began my "single again" journey long before I was actually on my own. Being married but feeling single was difficult and lonely. Because I came to services with my own children it felt like the group my age just assumed I wouldn't be interested in attending class events so no one reached out to at least let me know about them or invite me. I taught a children's class so unless someone made an effort to keep me know about the adult class events I wouldn't know. I think they either didn't know what to do or maybe were sparing my feelings but I would have preferred to at least be invited and given the option of saying no rather than feeling left out.

I keep thinking about starting one but have no idea how to start. There is none in my area.

Good.

Member for 10 years, leader for 7, second year as Bible teacher to single moms.

I really haven't had much experience with singles ministry. I strive to encourage others to not settle for guys just to fit the future they planned for themselves.

Unfortunately, my experience with singles' ministries has not been good. The ones I have gone to have been a bunch of single, lonely women who almost reek of desperation to have a man. The discussions were all about "waiting for the one" but God doesn't promise anyone with true love or a soulmate. Our true love is God, not man.