



' the singles friendly church ' 12 steps to growth

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1. If you want to understand singles better, then listen to them

Compile a list of your church's single adults, taking a needs and interest survey to better understand actions your church can take to involve and minister to single people.

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2. Don't categorise or stereo-type all Christian singles as the same

Single ministry isn't a one size fits all group. The needs and interests of people will vary according to their stage of life. We suggest at least 3 subcultures of 18-30's, 30-40's , 50 + with some crossover.

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3. Be aware of slipping into the extreme family (marriage and kids) - centric outlook of many churches

Many sermon topics and church programmes can be completely irrelevant to singles using illustrations that can inadvertently position marriage above singleness.

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4. Avoid the clichés that can make someone feel like half a person if they aren't married

Singles don't need a second mother or pseudo-relative giving them the "unmarried guilt trip" and making them feel like there must be something wrong with them because they aren't married.

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5. Don't patronize or judge singles for taking steps to mix when you are married yourself

Great singles ministries like Christian Single Mix don't compromise divine destiny in the same way that looking for a job doesn't lessen our trust in God for provision. Encourage singles to use all of God's 21st century provision.

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6. Purposefully seek to discover and showcase the gifts of Christian singles

Empower and use Christian singles without abusing their singleness. Their service isn't limited to babysitting and picking up the slack when married people are busy. They have gifts and talents like everyone else.

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7. What you've learnt about Christian singles teach others

Help the carers and team leaders in your church to become more aware of how to minister more effectively to Christian singles.

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8. Be aware of the times and the seasons

Be sensitive that certain dates on the calendar can be challenging for some singles such as mothers day, fathers day and valentines. Also be aware that some evening activities may exclude single parents unless childcare is arranged.

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9. Don't segregate singles

Be aware that a singles ministry can become its own marginalised subculture if it isn't integrated into some wider adult ministries. Single adults are part of the church in the same way that married adults are. The operative word is adult not single so connect different groups in your church.

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10. Put singles in positions of responsibility

Many of our leadership teams only consist of married people. Jesus is our greatest model as a single and took a different view with His leadership team of disciples. Singleness didn't stop the apostle Paul leading either.

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11. Don't pressure your singles into marrying each other

If your church doesn't have many single members, don't presume that any available opposites should be pushed together regardless of compatibility. This can put them in the awkward position of being 'eligible' with people that they'd rather not be eligible with.

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12. Take steps to connect with other churches and Christian Single Mix

We believe that the wider church should work together to support its singles by launching churches together singles events and drawing from our resources. Why not contact us [here](#) further to discuss how we can serve singles together.

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