

A Note to Single Men and Women Around the World

Dear Single,

In life, there is just too much competition and too many competitive people. It's so easy to get caught up in the ways of this world, and that's why we have to remain prayerful each and every day of our lives. It is also important that we self-correct, meaning, we review our own hearts, intentions and motives, and anytime we find unforgiveness, jealousy, wrong motives or any other ungodly mindsets, we should go before the throne of God to renounce those mentalities. After all, ungodly thinking comes from the devil.

I remember being married to a man I'd nabbed with my feminine wiles. I was a young woman, naïve and extremely seductive. Of course, I was a babe in Christ and I was trying to find some sort of bridge that would allow me to be in Christ Jesus, all the while, retaining my ungodly ways. It goes without saying, however, that such a bridge does not exist. I simply had not died to my flesh, so I put my flesh on display, hoping to nab the guy of my dreams. I did receive a lot of attention from guys who could see how desperate I was; after all, walking around half-dressed is like wearing a billboard that says, *“Attention, please. I'm broken, desperate and immoral. Please look at me, flirt with me, compliment me and pretend to love me because I definitely don't love myself.”* It wasn't long before I'd come across a man I thought was “the one”. We dated, fornicated, shacked, and then, we decided to get married. After our marriage, my self esteem began to plummet. You see, I depended on so many people to tell me what I was worth to them when I was a single woman, but after I'd gotten married, I depended on my husband to tell me what I was worth to him. Like myself, he was broken, so to him, I was worthless. What I didn't realize was I'd learned to be someone I am not. I didn't know the real me, therefore, it wasn't possible for me to give myself away in marriage because the woman I presented to my ex was a liar and a con. I hid the real me because I thought she was unlovable. I radiated a confidence on the outside that simply did not exist on the inside, and because I'd nabbed my guy using my femininity, it wasn't long before I was competing with other women who also used their feminine wiles to capture men. It goes without saying that many of those women were far more advanced at being seductive than I was. I found myself feeling like a loser time and time again because I was a rookie at being someone else; I didn't realize I was a natural at being myself because I'd never truly met me. So, I spent so many days and nights changing my outer appearance, hoping that I'd outshine the many women who didn't know their self-worth; women who also wore the masks of confidence, all the while, wearing revealing clothes. I gained weight, lost weight, cut my hair, wore weaves, and did almost anything I could think of to win. I didn't realize that I was in a competition that was fixed. I didn't realize that the only winners in life were the people who'd finally made peace with being themselves, but any and everyone who didn't know themselves had already lost.

It took me years to find myself, and I had to accept some ugly truths about the way I'd become. I was always winning one contest, only to lose ten more. I was always competing and comparing, and the

ironic part was...I'd never been competitive before I'd gotten married. Nevertheless, marriage is a Godly institution, and every ungodly trait you have before getting married will lift its ugly head and start demanding attention once you are married. Some behaviors, mindsets and demons lie dormant in a man or woman's heart, but as soon as that person gets married, every bit of ungodliness in him or her will awaken. That's why it's very important for you, as a single, to enjoy every bit of your single life. This isn't the time to look at others in admiration; this is the time to ask the Lord to reveal the intent and content of your heart so that you can renounce every ungodly trait you have. After all, it is those ungodly traits that come against your relationship with God, and it is those ungodly traits that will ruin your marriage if you don't forsake them. At the same time, don't just rise up against the traits; hand your whole heart over to God because every ungodly trait you have has a root, and that root has to be pulled up if you ever want to be free.

Nowadays, I speak on so many topics regarding relationships and self wholeness, and I've come to see how common brokenness is...even within the church. So many broken men and women are desperately wanting to get married, not realizing that marriage will only magnify their brokenness. Marriage is not a cure for brokenness; it is an institution for whole people. This means that we must first seek to be whole before we even think about getting married. We need to find out who we are in Christ Jesus so we don't lose ourselves in marriage.

If you don't know who you are in Christ Jesus, you will shop the world's mindset and pick up so many ungodly traits and personalities simply because the people wearing them appear to be heading in the direction you want to go. Nevertheless, if you follow them long enough, you'll see that such individuals always find themselves on dead ends, refusing to turn back because they've come too far. Being you isn't popular because ***you're the only you*** in this world; there is no one out there who is exactly like you. Your success is tied up in you being yourself. Your happiness is tied up in you being you. Your God-given peace is locked away in your heart, and only the real you has the key to unlock that peace. Don't try to look like anyone else and don't try to sound or think like anyone else. Just be you. Again, being you isn't popular because you are a living, breathing token of God's innovative thinking. You are one of His greatest masterpieces! When Leonardo da Vinci created the famous Mona Lisa painting, he had to tune out the noise around him, ignore the popular painting styles of that day, and just dare to be different. That's what made his work stand out; that's what made him a pillar of his time, and that's what makes him stand out today...even in his death. Now, it's your turn. What mark are you making on this generation? When you leave this earth, what will people have to say about you? What type of legacy will you leave your children? Know this: If you spend your life looking at and wishing for the success of others, you will spend your life being a failure because you've failed at being who you were designed to be. Sure, being you isn't popular at first, but if you dare to be yourself in the midst of the many people who've fashionably and mentally become duplicates of others, you will do the unthinkable: You will stand out from the crowd. At the same time, your God-assigned spouse will find his or her way to you a lot faster because they won't have to spend year after year waiting on

you to find yourself.

With love,

God's Messenger

P.S. A few reminders to get you by:

- You are uniquely created to succeed. You are God's uncommon and never-before-seen masterpiece, but Satan wants to make you common.
- You're better at being you than you are at being anyone else. Don't let Hollywood make a minion out of you.
- No one else can successfully be you. They'll only fail at being themselves if they try.
- Uncommon people draw God's uncommon favor.
- Common people have to compete with some of the ungodliest of souls, and then, they lose. Imagine what that does to one's self worth.