



# Family

**A Theology for Singleness, Marriage, and Parenting in the Kingdom of God**

<sup>1</sup> Now for the matters you wrote about: “It is good for a man not to have sexual relations with a woman.” <sup>2</sup> But since sexual immorality is occurring, each man should have sexual relations with his own wife, and each woman with her own husband. <sup>3</sup> The husband should fulfill his marital duty to his wife, and likewise the wife to her husband. <sup>4</sup> The wife does not have authority over her own body but yields it to her husband. In the same way, the husband does not have authority over his own body but yields it to his wife. ...

**1 Corinthians 7:1-7, 17, 27-31**

<sup>5</sup> Do not deprive each other except perhaps by mutual consent and for a time, so that you may devote yourselves to prayer. Then come together again so that Satan will not tempt you because of your lack of self-control. <sup>6</sup> I say this as a concession, not as a command. <sup>7</sup> I wish that all of you were as I am. ... <sup>17</sup> Nevertheless, each person should live as a believer in whatever situation the Lord has assigned to them, just as God has called them. ... <sup>27</sup> Are you pledged to a woman? Do not seek to be released. Are you free from such a commitment? Do not look for a wife. ...

**1 Corinthians 7:1-7, 17, 27-31**

**28 But if you do marry, you have not sinned; and if a virgin marries, she has not sinned. But those who marry will face many troubles in this life, and I want to spare you this. 29 What I mean, brothers and sisters, is that the time is short. From now on those who have wives should live as if they do not; 30 those who mourn, as if they did not; those who are happy, as if they were not; those who buy something, as if it were not theirs to keep; 31 those who use the things of the world, as if not engrossed in them. For this world in its present form is passing away.**

**1 Corinthians 7:1-7, 17, 27-31**



# 1. The Falsehood (of Singleness)



**1. The Falsehood (of Singleness)**

**2. The Family (of and for Singles)**



**1. The Falsehood (of Singleness)**

**2. The Family (of and for Singles)**

**3. The Fulfillment (of Every Single Heart)**



# **1. The Falsehood (of Singleness)**



**The Ultimate Falsehood  
of Singleness is that a  
single person is not a  
complete person.**

**The conservative lie:**

**You're not complete  
unless you're married.**


A row of four framed photographs on a wall. The first photo shows a person in a dark setting. The second photo shows a person's face. The third photo shows a group of people. The fourth photo shows a person in a dark setting.

I wish that all of you were as I am.

**1 Corinthians 7:7**

**The liberal lie:**

**You're not complete...  
unless you're sexually active.**



“Proud of ya.  
Expression, not repression.”



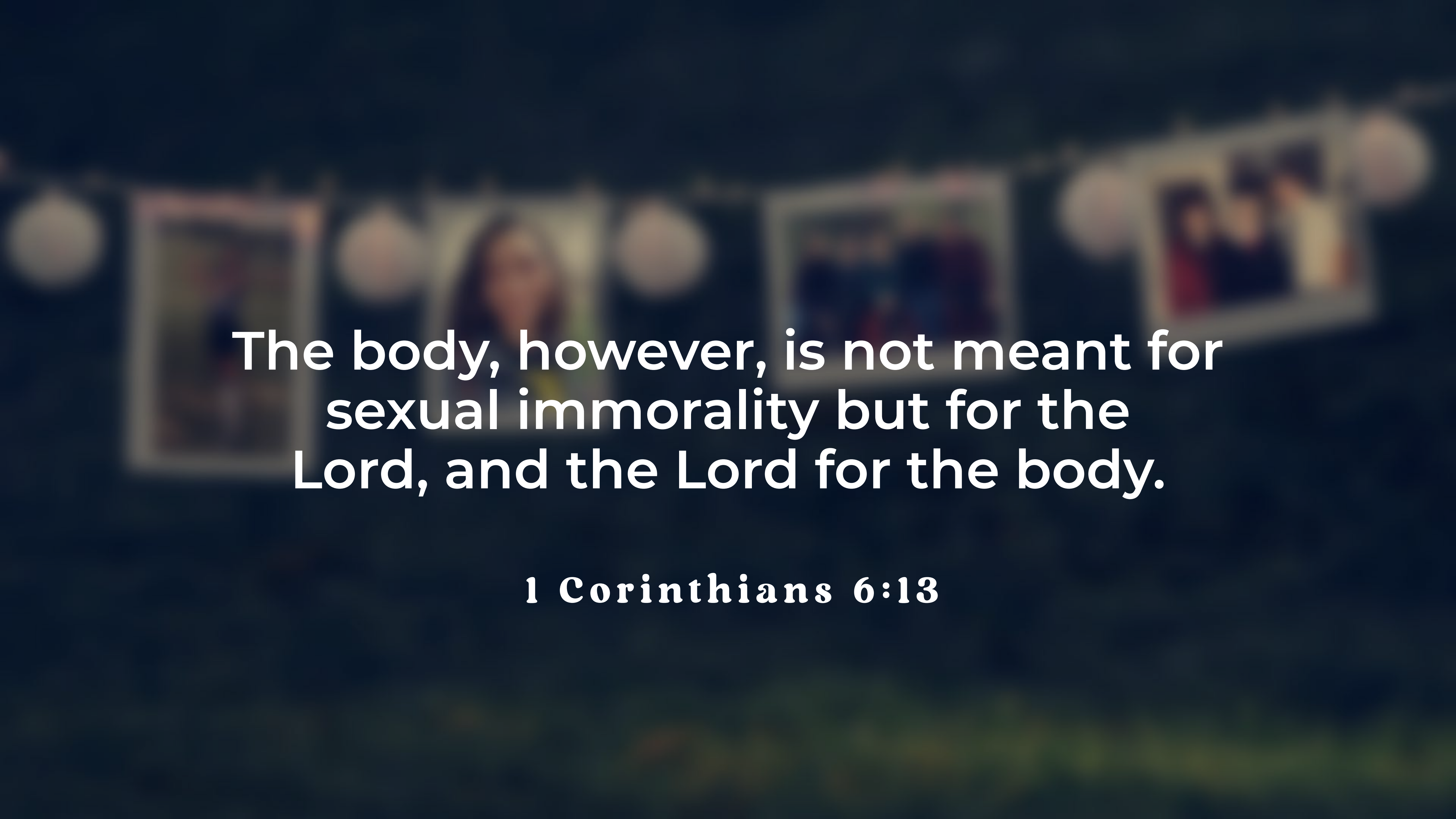
**Now for the matters you wrote about:  
“It is good for a man not to have  
sexual relations with a woman.”**

**1 Corinthians 7:1**



**You say, “Food for the stomach and  
the stomach for food, and God will  
destroy them both.”**

**1 Corinthians 6:13**



**The body, however, is not meant for  
sexual immorality but for the  
Lord, and the Lord for the body.**

**1 Corinthians 6:13**





**By his power God raised the Lord from  
the dead, and he will raise us also.**

**1 Corinthians 6:14**

Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ himself? Shall I then take the members of Christ and unite them with a prostitute? Never! Do you not know that he who unites himself with a prostitute is one with her in body? For it is said, "The two will become one flesh."

**1 Corinthians 6:15-16**



**1. The Falsehood (of Singleness)**

**2. The Family (of and for Singles)**

**Are you pledged to a woman? Do not seek to be released. Are you free from such a commitment? Do not look for a wife.**

**1 Corinthians 7:27**

“One of the clearest differences between Christianity and all other religions was Christianity’s paradigm idea of singleness as a way of life for its followers. Paul and Jesus both say that some people will choose not to be married, and that’s a good thing. This was revolutionary in ancient societies and the implications have rarely been appreciated. Since Jesus and Paul, it broke the necessity of the family, and creating a family was not something we had to do.”

**Stanley Hauerwas**

“If Christian women became widowed, they enjoyed substantial advantages over those around them. Pagan widows faced great social pressure to remarry...Caesar Augustus had widows fined if they failed to marry within two years. But among Christians widowhood was highly respected and the church stood ready to sustain poor widows, allowing them a choice whether they wanted to remarry or not.”

**Rodney Stark**  
*The Rise of Christianity*

What I mean, brothers and sisters, is that the time is short. From now on those who have wives should live as if they do not; those who mourn, as if they did not; those who are happy, as if they were not; those who buy something, as if it were not theirs to keep; those who use the things of the world, as if not engrossed in them. For this world in its present form is passing away.

**1 Corinthians 7:29-31**



**1. The Falsehood (of Singleness)**

**2. The Family (of and for Singles)**

**3. The Fulfillment (of Every Single Heart)**





...he who unites himself to the Lord  
is one with Him in spirit.

**1 Corinthians 6:17**



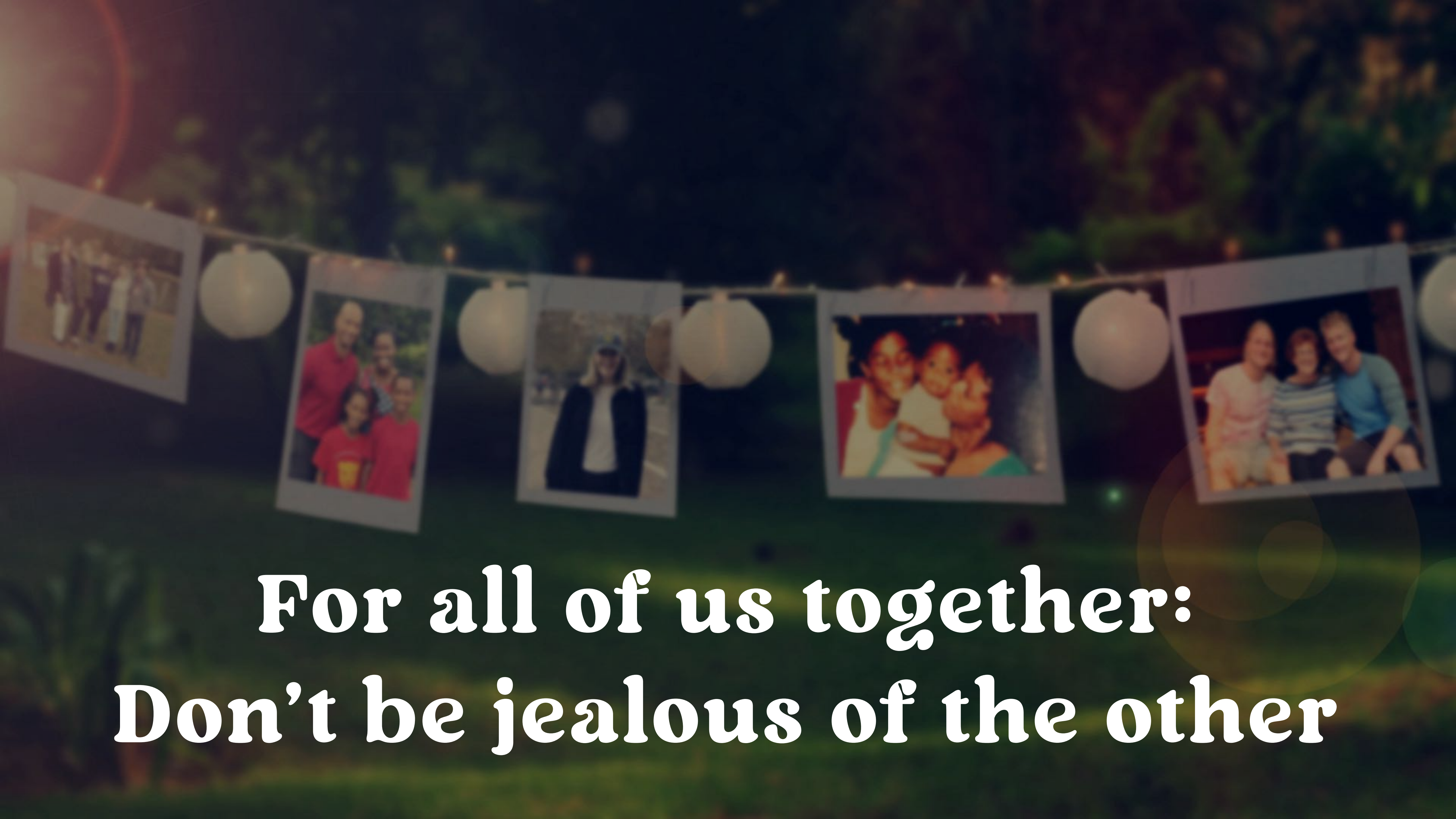
**For Singles:**

**Consider your mission**



**For Marrieds:**

**Open your lives to  
friendships with singles**



**For all of us together:  
Don't be jealous of the other**