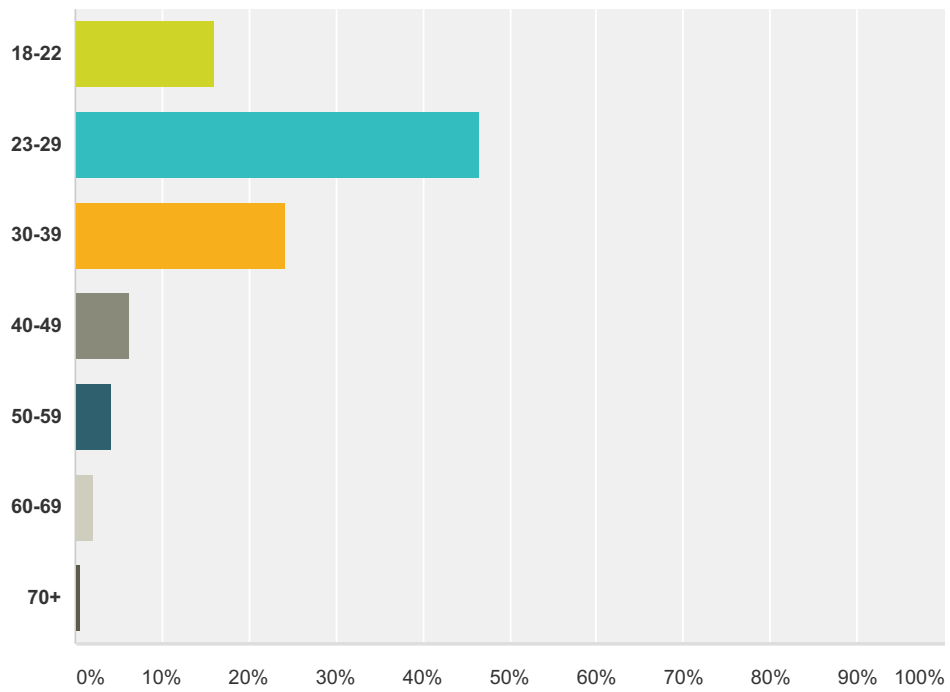


### Q1 What's your age? (please only fill out survey if you're over 18 and unmarried)

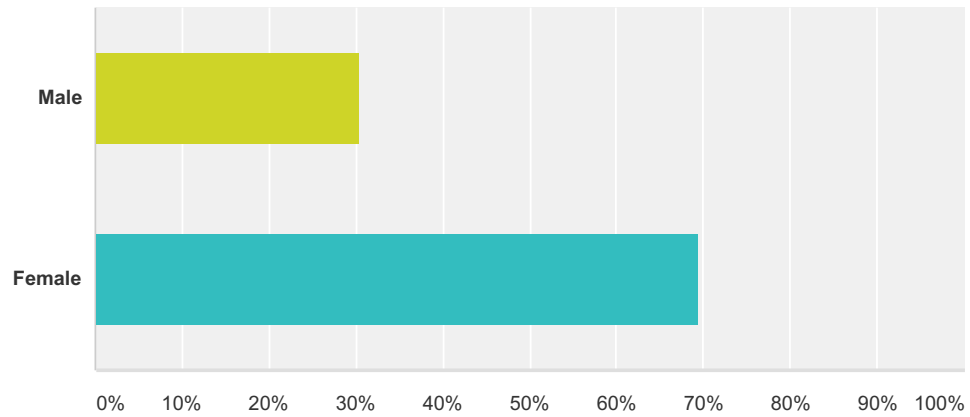
Answered: 504 Skipped: 0



Answer Choices	Responses
18-22	16.07% 81
23-29	46.63% 235
30-39	24.21% 122
40-49	6.35% 32
50-59	4.17% 21
60-69	1.98% 10
70+	0.60% 3
<b>Total</b>	<b>504</b>

### Q2 What is your gender?

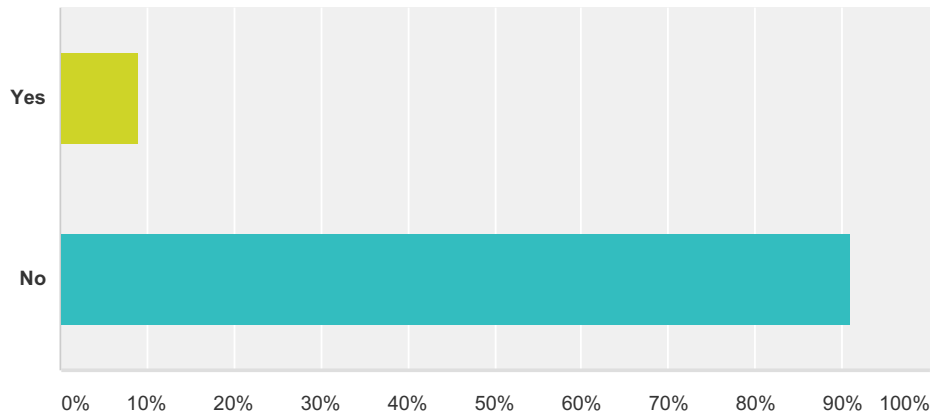
Answered: 504 Skipped: 0



Answer Choices	Responses
Male	30.56% 154
Female	69.44% 350
<b>Total</b>	<b>504</b>

### Q3 Do you have any children?

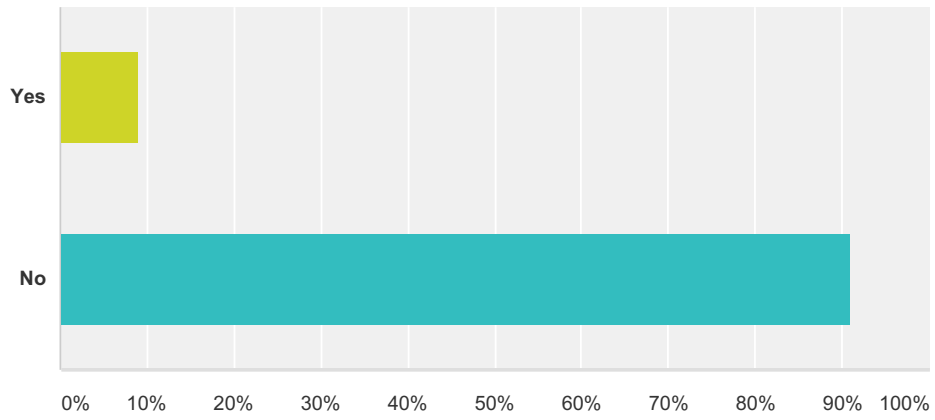
Answered: 504 Skipped: 0



Answer Choices	Responses
Yes	8.93% 45
No	91.07% 459
<b>Total</b>	<b>504</b>

### Q4 Have you been previously married and divorced?

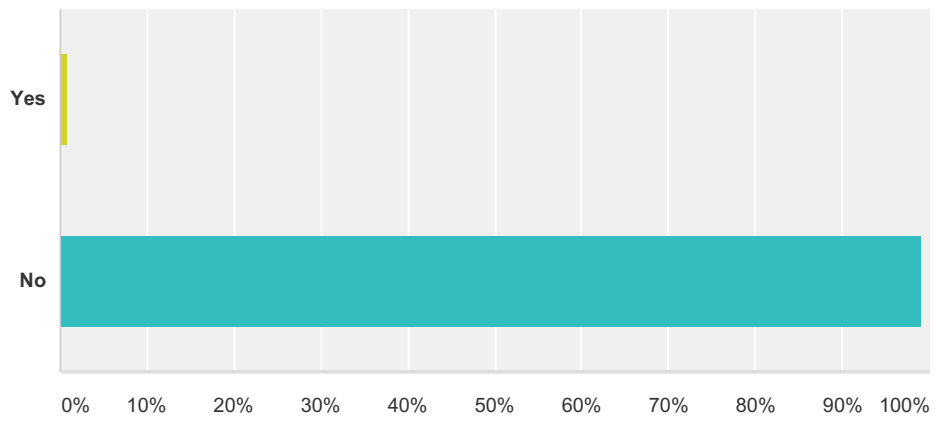
Answered: 503 Skipped: 1



Answer Choices	Responses
Yes	8.95% 45
No	91.05% 458
<b>Total</b>	<b>503</b>

### Q5 Have you been previously married and widowed?

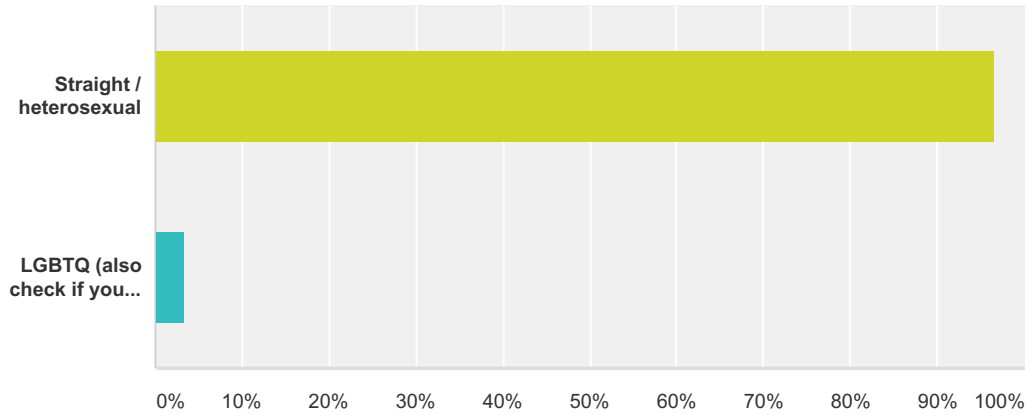
Answered: 499 Skipped: 5



Answer Choices	Responses
Yes	0.80% 4
No	99.20% 495
<b>Total</b>	<b>499</b>

### Q6 What is your sexual orientation?

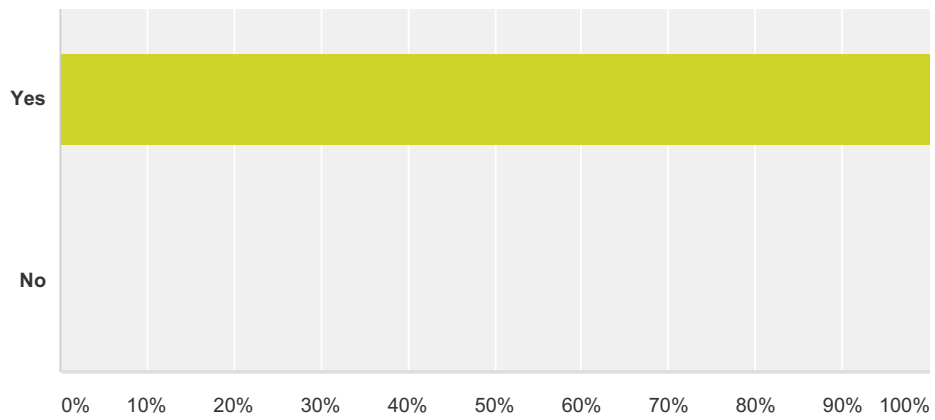
Answered: 504 Skipped: 0



Answer Choices	Responses
Straight / heterosexual	96.63% 487
LGBTQ (also check if you best relate with the term "same sex attraction")	3.37% 17
<b>Total</b>	<b>504</b>

### Q7 Are you a follower of Jesus (a professing Christian)?

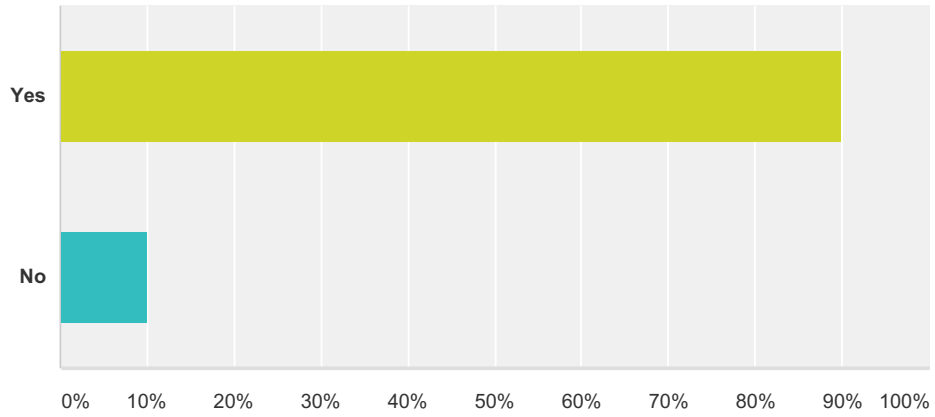
Answered: 504 Skipped: 0



Answer Choices	Responses
Yes	100.00% 504
No	0.00% 0
<b>Total</b>	<b>504</b>

### Q8 Do you attend church regularly?

Answered: 504 Skipped: 0

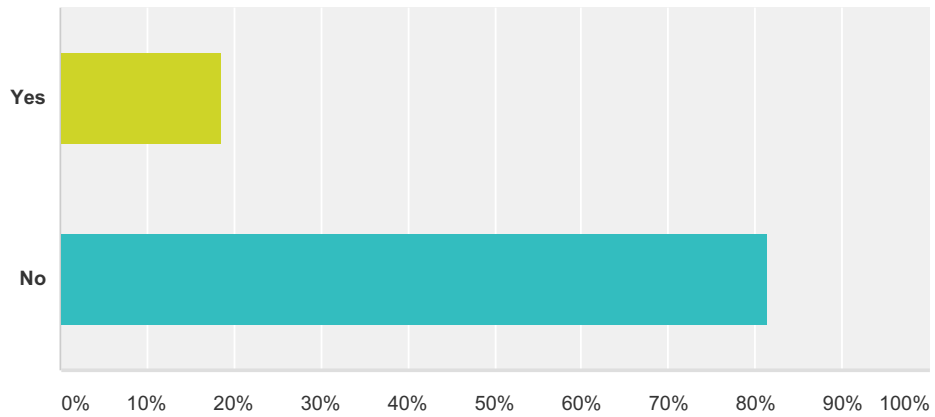


Answer Choices	Responses
Yes	90.08% 454
No	9.92% 50
<b>Total</b>	<b>504</b>



### Q9 Do you have a boyfriend or girlfriend?

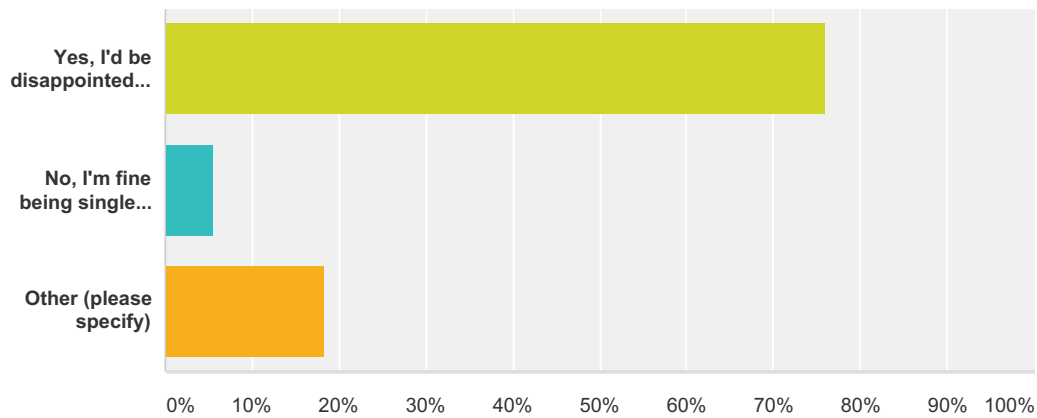
Answered: 504 Skipped: 0



Answer Choices	Responses
Yes	18.65% 94
No	81.35% 410
<b>Total</b>	<b>504</b>

### Q10 Do you have plans or hopes of getting married someday?

Answered: 504 Skipped: 0



Answer Choices	Responses
Yes, I'd be disappointed if I didn't get married someday	75.99% 383
No, I'm fine being single and/or have no intention of marrying	5.56% 28
Other (please specify)	18.45% 93
<b>Total</b>	<b>504</b>

#	Other (please specify)	Date
1	Not sure	8/18/2015 7:29 PM
2	Not sure	8/17/2015 11:23 PM
3	Matthew 19:12c eunuch	8/16/2015 10:43 PM
4	I would like to be married, but it's not a must.	8/14/2015 8:10 AM
5	I would like to but if not I'm fine.	8/11/2015 10:54 PM
6	I'd like to get married. I would also be okay if I don't.	8/11/2015 8:26 PM
7	I'd like to marry but content either way	8/11/2015 1:47 PM
8	I'd like to get married but I'd be fine with being single.	8/8/2015 6:25 PM
9	I'm fine being single, but would like to get married if I met the right guy	8/8/2015 1:24 PM
10	Yes, but if I don't I know it would be God's will	8/8/2015 1:11 PM
11	Either is good	8/7/2015 10:16 PM
12	I would like to get married, but am also fine being single.	8/6/2015 8:56 PM
13	accepted that marriage is very unlikely to happen	8/6/2015 3:21 PM
14	It would be great, but doesn't look as though it is in the cards	8/6/2015 9:47 AM
15	I'm seeing no one right now, but I do not have any objections on marriage	8/6/2015 8:36 AM
16	Unsure what will happen	8/6/2015 12:25 AM
17	I have no aspiration one way or the other - whatever the Lord has for me.	8/5/2015 11:29 PM

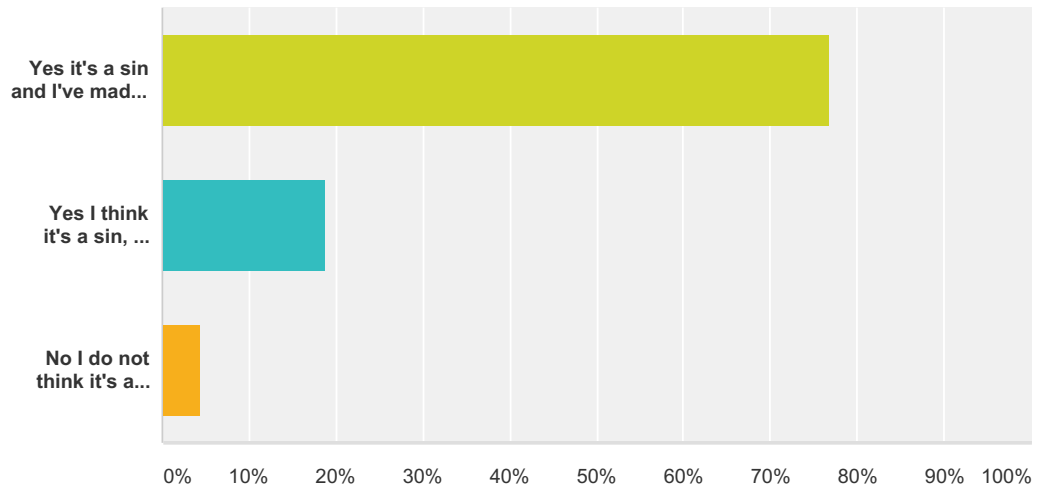
18	I'm good either way...I would love to get married but only if it will help me love Jesus more...I'm not so desperate that I will take anything.	8/5/2015 11:23 PM
19	It would be great but really have not met the one	8/5/2015 10:20 PM
20	Yes, a desire, but can't say how exactly I might feel thirty years from now when 60 if still single.	8/5/2015 10:09 PM
21	I am open to whichever role God has for me	8/5/2015 8:01 PM
22	Yes, but I would be fine with being single as well	8/5/2015 5:58 PM
23	I would like to be married, but also see the benefits of being single	8/5/2015 5:50 PM
24	I am open to the idea of dating and marriage.	8/5/2015 5:38 PM
25	I'd like to get married, but I really hope I am not disappointed if I do not get married.	8/5/2015 4:06 PM
26	Whatever God wants.	8/5/2015 3:58 PM
27	If the Lord calls me to it.	8/5/2015 3:19 PM
28	I would like to get married, but I don't feel I would be disappointed if I never did	8/4/2015 10:53 PM
29	No, have given up on that.	8/4/2015 10:51 PM
30	Yes I hope to get married but if not then I know God knows best	8/4/2015 8:12 PM
31	Yes, I'd like to get married but I'm content being single and trust God with my future, whether or not it actually happens.	8/3/2015 10:54 PM
32	yes but will not be disappointed if it did not happen	8/1/2015 4:22 PM
33	Yes I have hopes of getting married someday but am fine being single if that is God's plan.	7/31/2015 10:29 PM
34	I would like to get married. I don't think I can say I would be disappointed if I didn't though.	7/31/2015 12:28 PM
35	Im trying to be content either way	7/31/2015 7:54 AM
36	Don't know	7/30/2015 7:06 PM
37	Yes but if I don't, I believe that is the plan God had for me. It would be sad but I won't pity myself.	7/30/2015 6:43 PM
38	This is not a yes or no question. Would I feel that my life WERE complete if I never married? Yes. Would I be delighted if marriage were part of my life someday? Yes. Would I feel God had let me down if marriage were NOT part of my life someday? No. Would I feel that God had blessed me if marriage were someday part of my life? Yes. Would I feel that God had blessed me if marriage were NOT someday part of my life? Yes.	7/30/2015 5:27 PM
39	Yes, I won't be disappointed of not getting married.	7/30/2015 1:56 PM
40	I probably fit best in "no," but more appropriately, I don't feel the need to pursue marriage but still sometimes long for a relationship and would be happy to start dating (and eventually marry).	7/30/2015 1:46 PM
41	In between the two. I am fine being single. I would like to find someone to share my life with. But, if not I won't be disappointed. I will just enjoy my friends, family and grandkids!	7/30/2015 12:21 AM
42	Would like to be married, but not hopeful that it will yet happen	7/30/2015 12:07 AM
43	My husband is living. According to scripture I am to remain single or reconcile to my husband.	7/29/2015 8:02 PM
44	I'm fine either way	7/29/2015 4:46 PM
45	I'm not sure I could go through it again.	7/29/2015 2:52 PM
46	I would marry if God made it clear I should but am not actively pursuing this.	7/29/2015 10:37 AM
47	Learning to be comfortable alone while I wait on god.	7/29/2015 12:33 AM
48	Yes I would like to marry, but I firmly believe that God has a plan for me. I would rather follow His will than my own.	7/28/2015 10:36 PM
49	I could go either way	7/28/2015 10:04 PM
50	I enjoy my relationship with God as a single person. If I find a Godly woman of mutual virtue, humility, and interests then marriage is quite alright!	7/28/2015 3:11 PM

51	Yes, but I'm open to remaining celibate as well.	7/28/2015 3:38 AM
52	Yes, we are in fact, engaged!	7/28/2015 1:35 AM
53	Obvi if I didn't get married someday, I'd still get to hang out with Jesus all the time. So being disappointed would be pretty lame.	7/28/2015 12:01 AM
54	Yes, I long to be married but if I don't I still know God is faithful and good!	7/27/2015 10:06 PM
55	Yes, but God's will is God's will...	7/27/2015 9:12 PM
56	Depends on what God has for me! It would be sweet to be married though.	7/27/2015 5:38 PM
57	No specific plans to marry, but no objection if i meet the right person	7/27/2015 4:41 PM
58	Yes, if it doesnt happen I am fine being single	7/27/2015 3:49 PM
59	I would hope to get married one day but not disappointed, well at least I would hope not to be.	7/27/2015 1:19 PM
60	I would love to get married but won't be disappointed if I don't. I'll learn to accept it	7/27/2015 11:51 AM
61	Yes I definitely desire to get married but i'm trusting whatever God has for my future in that realm	7/27/2015 10:32 AM
62	Yes I believe I will get married	7/26/2015 6:41 PM
63	Yes but I wouldn't be disappointed if I didn't marry	7/26/2015 3:07 PM
64	I'm not opposed to it again but possible failure again is scary.	7/26/2015 11:41 AM
65	I'd love to get married to a Godly woman, but I won't be disappointed if God says no to that desire.	7/25/2015 11:03 PM
66	I have a severly mentally handicapped son that lives with me. I can't imagine any man putting up with this. It has scared away 2 previous serious boyfriends.	7/25/2015 5:15 PM
67	somewhere in between those two choices	7/25/2015 3:53 PM
68	I am disabled. Have a special M friend of30 yr who helps me. wanted to marry at one time.	7/25/2015 12:26 PM
69	I'm good either way.	7/25/2015 3:17 AM
70	I'd like to get married if I meet the right person but I haven't and I am content being single at this time.	7/24/2015 2:41 PM
71	I may re-marry someday. If the right man comes along	7/24/2015 12:56 PM
72	Would like to get married, but I'm okay if I don't.	7/24/2015 12:03 PM
73	I'm fine being single, but would consider marriage as opposed to cohabition	7/24/2015 11:50 AM
74	I only want to get married again if we both are sure we both will do anything to stay married.	7/24/2015 11:37 AM
75	I would like to be married and have more children, but I have also become ok with the possibility of remaining single as well.	7/24/2015 9:38 AM
76	I think I desire to have kids. I think because of a few of the boxes above complicates things.	7/24/2015 8:52 AM
77	I'm not too concerned with it. It is in God's hands.	7/24/2015 8:19 AM
78	I'm indifferent. I'll let it happens if it happens.	7/24/2015 8:10 AM
79	Yes, I have hopes of being married someday. Yes, I will also be fine if God has me to be single. I trust that He does what is best, and as I walk in obedience to Him, singleness, if that is what He has for me, is not second-best, even though I, in my human, limited understanding would have picked a husband and children, if that were my option to pick.	7/23/2015 9:27 PM
80	When my husband first left me, I didn't think that remarriage would be the right thing to do for the children. Also, although the Bible is clear about divorce being allowed for adultery (my husband's), it isn't as clear about remarriage. Now many years have passed and my children are grown. Although I don't like the idea of being alone for the rest of my life, it appears that this is the path that God has marked out for me.	7/23/2015 9:23 PM
81	I'm good enough to clean up after a jerk but when they are healed they are gone	7/23/2015 7:38 PM
82	Plan on getting married, wouldn't be disappointed if I didn't get married	7/23/2015 6:23 PM
83	I'll just wait and see what happens.	7/23/2015 6:16 PM

84	still recently divorced - too early to think about remarrying.	7/23/2015 6:11 PM
85	I do have hopes to be married one day, but wouldn't necessarily be disappointed if I didn't	7/23/2015 6:08 PM
86	Yes, I want to get married someday, but it wouldn't be the end of the world if I didn't.	7/23/2015 5:22 PM
87	Not opposed the possibility but not expecting it	7/23/2015 4:42 PM
88	It totally depends on the day and has gone through MANY seasons, so there is no easy answer to this. Most days, I truly enjoy the perks of being single and knowing that I am taking advantage of the freedom and flexibility I have. I'd say more often than not, my married friends, esp those with kids, are more envious of my life than the other way around. And some days, I get tired of being "un-partnered" in a world designed for married people and families.	7/23/2015 4:22 PM
89	I don't know how I'd feel. I'm trying to step away from those kinds of opinions right now and figure out my path in life first.	7/23/2015 4:18 PM
90	Taking one day at a time & trusting God to direct my steps whatever they look like according to His will.	7/23/2015 4:16 PM
91	I'm fine being single, but who knows. I won't "settle" just to get married.	7/23/2015 3:51 PM
92	Depends on God's will for me.	7/23/2015 3:27 PM
93	Unsure	7/23/2015 11:06 AM

### Q11 Do you think premarital sex is a sin?

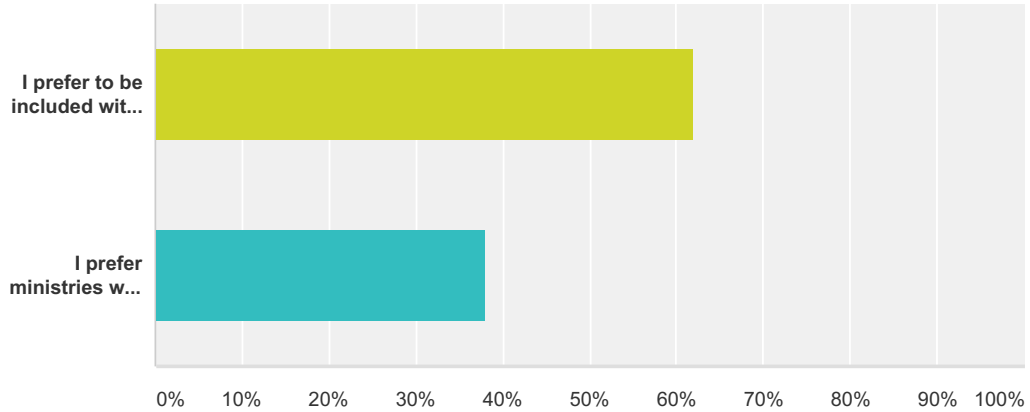
Answered: 504 Skipped: 0



Answer Choices	Responses
Yes it's a sin and I've made a commitment to not have sex until marriage	76.79% 387
Yes I think it's a sin, but I am sexually active and/or don't plan to wait until marriage to have sex	18.85% 95
No I do not think it's a sin	4.37% 22
<b>Total</b>	<b>504</b>

**Q12 In church ministry programs (small groups, events, etc.), do you prefer being included with married couples and families or do you prefer ministries with only singles present?**

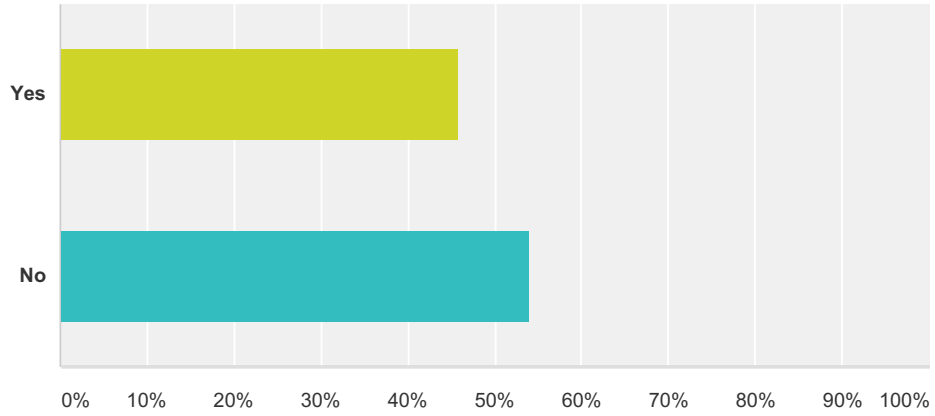
Answered: 504 Skipped: 0



Answer Choices	Responses
I prefer to be included with married couples and families	61.90% 312
I prefer ministries with only singles present	38.10% 192
<b>Total</b>	<b>504</b>

**Q13 Do you feel devalued, like an outcast, or in a lessor life stage as a single person at your church? (If you don't currently go to church, answer based on past experience)**

Answered: 504 Skipped: 0

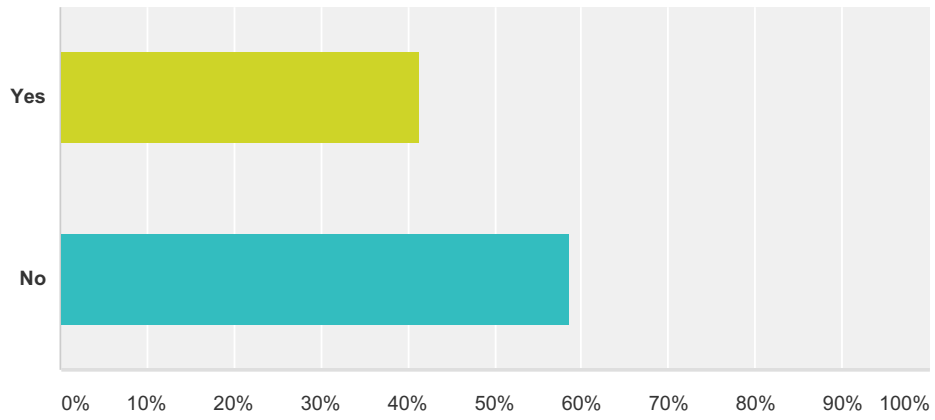


Answer Choices	Responses
Yes	45.83% 231
No	54.17% 273
<b>Total</b>	<b>504</b>



### Q14 Do you see church as a good place to find dates?

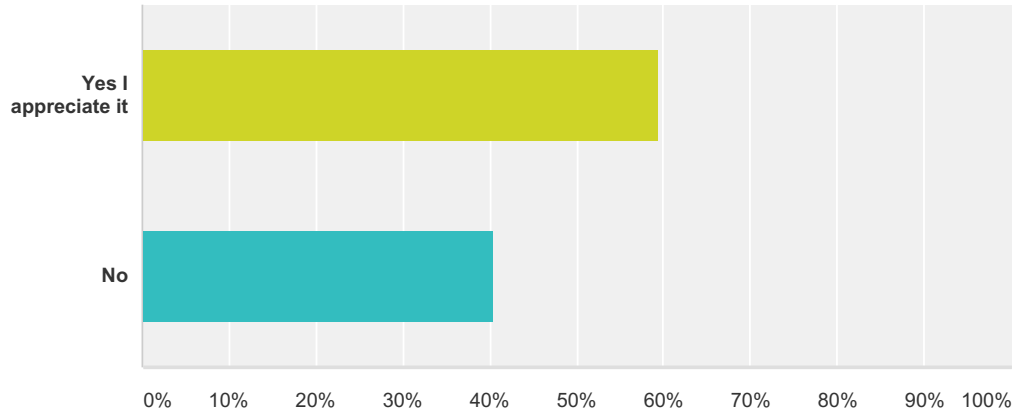
Answered: 504 Skipped: 0



Answer Choices	Responses
Yes	41.27% 208
No	58.73% 296
<b>Total</b>	<b>504</b>

### Q15 Do you (or would you) enjoy people at your church trying to set you up on dates / match-make you?

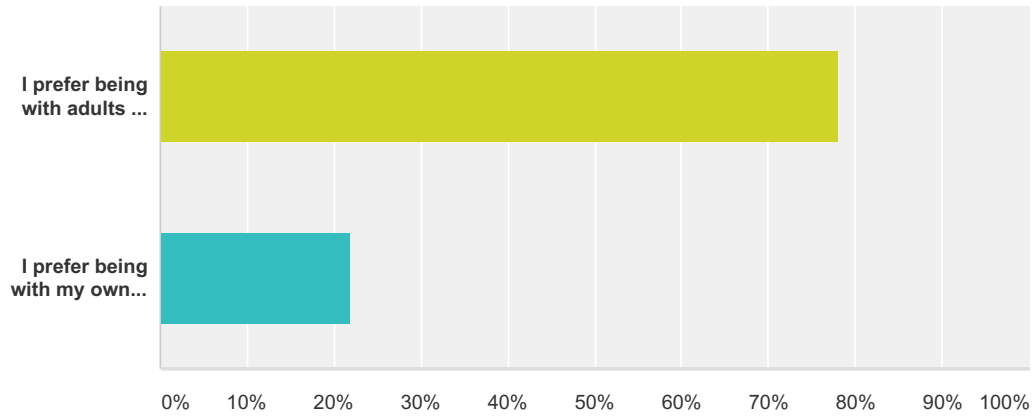
Answered: 504 Skipped: 0



Answer Choices	Responses
Yes I appreciate it	59.52% 300
No	40.48% 204
<b>Total</b>	<b>504</b>

### Q16 Do you prefer being in Christian community with adults of all ages/generations or only your general age / generation?

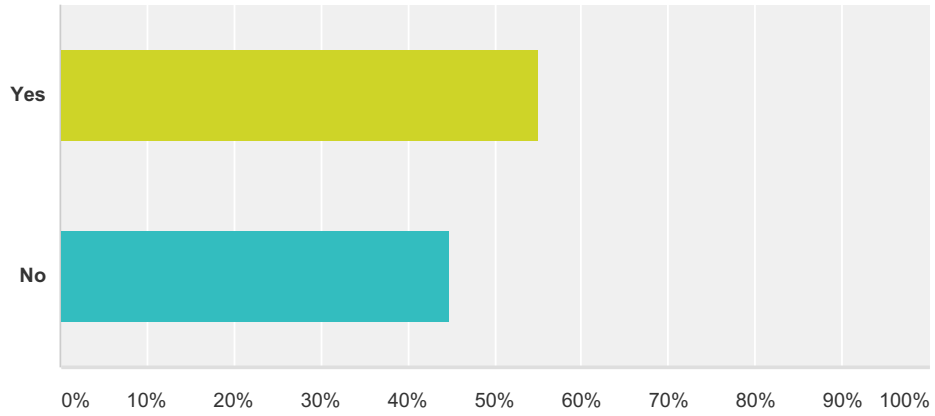
Answered: 504 Skipped: 0



Answer Choices	Responses
I prefer being with adults of all ages / generations	78.17% 394
I prefer being with my own generation and general age bracket	21.83% 110
<b>Total</b>	<b>504</b>

### Q17 Has your church leadership advocated singleness as a viable and worthy choice / path in life?

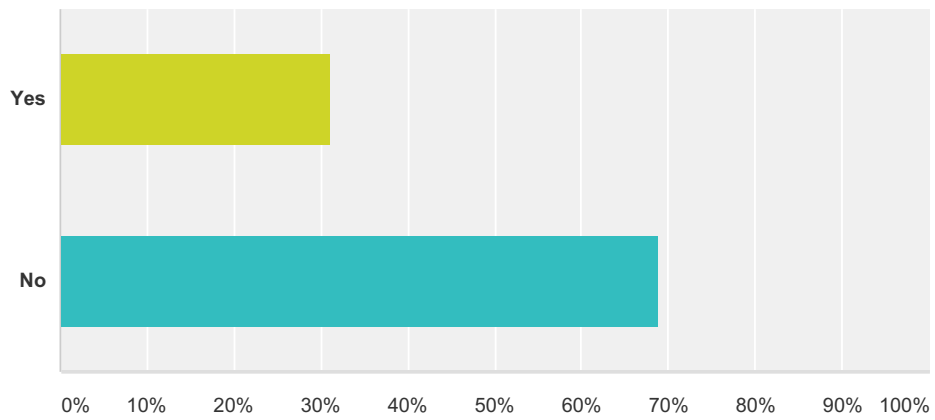
Answered: 504 Skipped: 0



Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	55.16%	278
No	44.84%	226
<b>Total</b>		<b>504</b>

### Q18 Do you feel pressured by your church that you should get married someday?

Answered: 504 Skipped: 0



Answer Choices	Responses
Yes	31.15% 157
No	68.85% 347
<b>Total</b>	<b>504</b>

### Q19 (Optional) What have been your most difficult and/or bad experiences as a single person in church?

Answered: 254 Skipped: 250

#	Responses	Date
1	I attend a very large church with many different "communities" within it, yet most (if not all) categorize themselves by very stereotypical phases of life. If you don't fall into one of these, you have the option of some more general, mixed group, or none at all. Single, never married/no kids, but not in college or grad school - sorry, got nothing.	8/18/2015 10:00 AM
2	Churches seem more family oriented and I felt unimportant as a single. I don't believe this is intentionally done, but I believe that there is not enough invested enough in singles at some churches.	8/17/2015 11:23 PM
3	I hate sitting through sermons on Marriage. Yes there is always the lone "Single people can get stuff out of this too", but It's hard when the whole time you think about being alone.	8/17/2015 10:17 AM
4	My lifestyle is not known by the church. I do not exist.	8/16/2015 10:43 PM
5	It can be isolating sometimes if couples feel like they can't make plans with single people because we might feel left out. Quite frankly, just because you would rather invite another couple to dinner doesn't mean a single person wouldn't also enjoy dinner and conversation with friends. Being single is often times the best way to avoid unhealthy interactions so I say it shouldn't be a problem for people in couples to make plans with singles. We want to hang out too and being a "third wheel" is a label that is kind of immature anyways.	8/16/2015 10:29 PM
6	I haven't really had bad experiences as a single in church, but I have sometimes felt that married folks were given some special status in ministry that singles weren't.	8/12/2015 11:08 PM
7	Feeling like I don't belong to any group/ministry	8/12/2015 12:18 PM
8	Just being alone all the time. Everyone has their own life.	8/12/2015 10:31 AM
9	As a single my most difficult experience was when I visited this church and the Pastor told me I should be shamed of myself for having children and no husband.	8/11/2015 10:54 PM
10	Church members bringing up exes after a breakup is somewhat difficult.	8/11/2015 10:02 PM
11	Everytime there is a new guy in church someone's (single people included) automatically trying to "hook us up" I'm not desperate	8/11/2015 5:42 PM
12	The struggle of being an adult in their early thirties waiting on God for a mate is not understood well by people who got married in their early 20's. Not compromising is hard and there are no viable male potential partners in my church which leads to feelings of hopelessness	8/11/2015 5:38 PM
13	The pool of single, integrous, straight men is too small at my church.	8/11/2015 4:13 PM
14	Feeling left out of the family oriented activities.	8/11/2015 3:48 PM
15	feeling alone	8/11/2015 3:47 PM
16	No collage age group/ bible study	8/11/2015 2:22 PM
17	Outdated examples in combination with high pressures to marry.	8/11/2015 2:21 PM
18	Constant lip service to the value of the single life, but lack of actual cultural follow through. Maybe one leader at the church is a single person. The rhetoric and implicit narrative of much of the pulpit messaging is pretty clear that being married is more important and valued.	8/9/2015 10:22 PM
19	Finding community that goes beyond church commitments.	8/8/2015 6:25 PM
20	Struggling to keep my eyes focused on my relationship with Christ over the attention of a girl. Seeing other couples walk toward marriage is difficult on me because I want to be in that season of life also.	8/8/2015 11:52 AM
21	In my past church (mostly Latino settings) people expect young people to get married early and not dating is questioned	8/8/2015 11:32 AM

22	Sometimes it's hard to look at a couple at church with kids and think you won't get married or have kids when you want to so badly..	8/8/2015 1:19 AM
23	Holidays with no family to sit with. Families are central to the church and dominate culture, so many things are built around them, leaving single people (or that alternate lifestyle as Baby Mama puts it) to be on the outside of church.	8/7/2015 10:49 PM
24	Feeling like couples and relationships are glorified and they are more "successful" in their endeavors to follow Christ because they are dating and pursuing Christ, therefore are more "hardcore" for Christ than singles are	8/7/2015 10:32 PM
25	Early on - married women who felt threatened by my singleness Now - those who think I would never understand life	8/7/2015 9:49 PM
26	I feel, as a woman, that there is something fundamentally wrong with my relationship with God because he has not yet trusted me with a man to marry one day.	8/7/2015 12:12 AM
27	None, but my church is unique	8/6/2015 9:41 PM
28	At a previous small church a group for singles and young married adults was called Pairs and Spares.Need I say more?	8/6/2015 3:21 PM
29	Other people assuming you are coming to church to find a husband. I really just want friends first, and out of that it would be great to meet someone but also great to just have a solid group of Christian brothers and sisters	8/6/2015 2:20 PM
30	Maybe the ideas that people at church preach, like wait for the one that God made specifically for you. Or make a list to ask God for your husband. It would be better to hear: prepare yourself for God and learn how to love like Jesus, thats the ultimate goal, not marriage	8/6/2015 1:41 PM
31	I feel like sometimes in singles groups, the main focus is to find your spouse. I appreciate singles groups, but the added pressure is sometimes daunting.	8/6/2015 10:07 AM
32	there isn't a place for us. all is focused on family. even women's ministry has seminars to focus on family and children	8/6/2015 9:47 AM
33	Not being invited or included in on married families small groups or gatherings.	8/6/2015 9:25 AM
34	Living everyday life, I feel awkward yrying to fit in. Every group has a lot going on wheather single or married. It's hard to know how to fit in. I feel like I connect to the married folk with children because I'm a nanny. But not having children of my own the reality is it's hard to feel included in their family. I haven't connected with the singles because we just haven't gotten to know each other that well.	8/6/2015 8:21 AM
35	I think the trying to set up dates or having singles only stuff makes it super awkward	8/6/2015 2:09 AM
36	Its rare to find married couples who will hang with singles.Some of my best friends do fit in this category	8/6/2015 1:09 AM
37	When marriage is treated like a required and assumed life step for all "normal" people.	8/6/2015 12:25 AM
38	Being labeled as "single" and put in a different category as those who aren't single. I would love to be treated as an equal, valuable member of the church with wise things to say and things to contribute to discussion, regardless of my marital status. So often marriage is pitted above a relationship with God in the hearts of both married women (asking me if I like anyone, if I'm interested in anyone, etc) and in single women (being so heartsick over their singleness). I don't like being treated like "lesser" or "not there yet" because of my singleness, as marriage is not a certainty or a right that I have.	8/5/2015 11:29 PM
39	Feeling like everyone is waiting for me to get married. It's like I'm not a complete person or grown up until I'm married. The pity is not encouraging either.	8/5/2015 11:23 PM
40	- Sitting in Valentines Day service & listening to how great it is to be married - being put in a singles group where everyone was at least 10 years younger - being asked what is wrong with you, are you gay?	8/5/2015 11:11 PM
41	I love my church family, but there are zero people my age who aren't already married. I do enjoy and find value in spending time with people of all generations and life stages, but it's also hard not having others I can relate to. I also appreciate how well meaning everyone is with their suggestions on how to find a boyfriend/husband, but it also gets exhausting when it seems that's all people see when they look at me.	8/5/2015 11:02 PM
42	When married women feel threatened by my presence.	8/5/2015 10:43 PM

43	- on Mother's Day or other holidays people ask me why I'm not married and why I don't have kids - excluded cause I'm not married. The Sunday school class I previously attended was mixed married & singles but the married women would get mad if you even spoke to their spouse at table discussions. Some were downright mean. - pastors that don't see value in singles	8/5/2015 10:20 PM
44	Excluded by married couples- marrieds want to hang out with other marrieds. Comments like "the right one is out there"... "there is someone for you"-- these things are actually unknown and not facts or promises, they are not consoling but annoying	8/5/2015 10:09 PM
45	Our singles/young adult ministry is kind of difficult for me. I feel there is very little connection, and always mention of people needing to find dates there. I think the women are somewhat pressured to look nice/attractive for the men there.	8/5/2015 10:04 PM
46	Feeling like the church does not encourage the single young men to date within the church.	8/5/2015 9:47 PM
47	I tend to be a connector in my church. I keep an eye out for new singles, couples, or families and make it a point to welcome them. As a single woman I tend to be hesitant in initiating these encounters with single men because I've had bad experiences of men perceiving this as romantic interest when in reality I just want them to feel welcomes and connected to the church...because my church is awesome!	8/5/2015 9:43 PM
48	Feeling like I don't belong - I go to a church of 4,000 people in a big city, and yet there is almost nothing for singles	8/5/2015 9:36 PM
49	I returned to my church after I had moved out of state and returned from a broken engagement. I was writhing internally for a good year after I came back. I deeply needed to be supported in choosing not to marry the wrong person. I chose not to marry him because I knew that I wanted to marry someone I was better for God with. Unfortunately, this was not the case. When I returned, I needed the validation of my decision within my community. Instead I returned to feeling devalued for not being married.	8/5/2015 8:55 PM
50	I think it is harder for a female to be single in the church and in ministry than a male. It's "okay" for females to be in ministry if they're married but odd if they're single. On one hand it feels like married people think "Oh, she's single so she can do more than us". And on the other I can feel devalued by people when I'm not dating anyone at the time. Especially when people continually ask if I'm dating yet like my whole life is on hold until I get married.	8/5/2015 8:13 PM
51	Most of the guys are either already married, very socially awkward or otherwise not attractive, and/or ideologically different from me. (I am liberal and many guys are too "conservative"/Republican for me.)	8/5/2015 8:09 PM
52	I would say the lack of involvement for single parents.	8/5/2015 8:01 PM
53	I think the hardest thing is sometimes just looking around and feeling like I am one of the very few singles, or times when married couples in the church don't initiate with me as a friend. Sometimes I feel like the topic of casual conversation at my community group is totally revolved around being married/spouses, and I don't have a lot to add to the conversation since that isn't my reality. It sometimes feels like married people don't know what to ask me aside from my job or if I'm in a relationship.	8/5/2015 8:00 PM
54	Hearing people talk about how "disgusting" or "perverted" certain sexual acts are. Particularly if they are things that I've done. Know one has said to my face they think I'm those things, but people give their opinion on the action without thinking about others and what they may have experienced.	8/5/2015 7:51 PM
55	After my boyfriend of 2.5 years and I broke up, I was told by multiple people at my small 70 person church (including my Pastor and his wife) essentially to hang tough during this"waiting period". Then, later, received an article from my Pastor's wife about patience in singleness. I was 25 when she sent that to me; she got married at 19; she had no idea what I was going through. That same year, my church hosted a marriage conference one weekend, but offered absolutely nothing for singles. Granted, I was one of five singles in the church and the other four were engaged; I might not have gone anyway.	8/5/2015 7:42 PM
56	Not having sex lol	8/5/2015 7:31 PM
57	None, right now I have plenty of single friends, but worried later I'll be left with age groups I no longer relate to as they get married and do things with couples and families.	8/5/2015 6:55 PM
58	Trying to make decisions or positions of leadership as a single woman	8/5/2015 6:42 PM
59	Not being considered as a leader because I'm a single female. Often they address the leaders as husbands and wives.	8/5/2015 6:34 PM
60	I feel like my church doesn't have a singles ministry for my age group. It has been difficult to meet people.	8/5/2015 6:27 PM
61	Seeing others relationship thrive while mine failed.	8/5/2015 6:17 PM



62	Annual marriage conferences vs. 1 singles conference in 10 years Speaking to singles as if we are unable to experience the Lord because I'm not married, or that sin isn't as damaging because it's not affecting a family	8/5/2015 6:12 PM
63	This may be more of a cultural thing than specific to church, but the idea that life is somehow incomplete or lesser without a significant other is prevalent. Seperate from that, as a single woman working in full-time overseas missions, I have found that while support raising, churches and people sometimes take married couples and single men more seriously as missionaries. For instance, because pastors are eager to be above reproach (rightly so), it is more difficult for me to connect with pastors than some of my male or married friends. In the context of meetings to ask people to partner with me, I very often get asked if I'm going to marry a man from the culture I minister in. Many people talk about my work as though it is a phase or a trip rather than a calling from God that could end up being a lifetime calling. Especially the will-you-marry-an-Italian question serves to communicate "what you're doing is great and all, but to get MARRIED, that's the real goal." Sometimes it feels as though people think I'm just trying to make use of my time as best I can before my real life starts when I meet a man. I think that puts dangerous pressure on marriage to be something it isn't, even though I see marriage as a good thing that I would welcome in my life.	8/5/2015 5:50 PM
64	As a single 32 year old guy, I find myself in the minority. Most my age are married with a couple of kids. What's been difficult is hearing statements such as "when you get married" or "God hasn't finished preparing her" or "there's someone out there for everyone." They don't encourage but rather cause more pain. A frustration of mine has been to watch many of my single friends get set up with their future spouses and no one has ever even attempted to do so for me. It actually adds to my insecurity on the issue, feeling as if even my friends don't see me marrying even though they would never say so.	8/5/2015 5:44 PM
65	Actually, I've just felt very uncomfortable around awkward singles not typically around married people or families.	8/5/2015 5:36 PM
66	The men in church are raised to become egotistical controlling individuals	8/5/2015 5:31 PM
67	I think more often than not I feel part of a "mystery" group - that my church doesn't know how to minister to me or support me well. I think this is often manifest in subtle ways - not having support systems in place, not having singles who can pour into my life (not feeling understood because most/all pastors are married), and not being included in examples (e.g. sermon illustration focusing on your spouse/children).	8/5/2015 4:31 PM
68	Just a lot of questions from individuals about whether or not I'm married. Bad experience at the church level - just overlooking unmarried, post-college age population as a whole. A lot of focus on marrieds and young families, but not a lot of overlap of all ages/life stages.	8/5/2015 4:13 PM
69	When it seems the only people in leadership are all married, there are specific ministries devoted to newlyweds, young marrieds, marrieds with kids, marrieds without kids, and the singles just kind of dangle and are not valued as much as married people.	8/5/2015 4:06 PM
70	I work in ministry, and as a single woman in the church I feel that sometimes I am not taken as seriously because I'm not married.	8/5/2015 3:42 PM
71	In my church in college I was singled out by the youth pastor as the oldest single female. I was 22 at the time. Every time he saw me he asked if I had found a man yet. He also told me once that the single women in the church needed to "starve a little" spiritually so the men could learn to stand up and grow. I was enraged and left that church.	8/5/2015 3:32 PM
72	The worst experiences I've had is when I am paired with someone for discipleship and because they are in a dating relationship they don't think I am able to disciple them as well as a married person could.	8/5/2015 3:31 PM
73	These aren't bad experiences, just ones that at times make me feel a bit alienated. Many church events are family/kid focused. Unless I want to be the only 40 year old in the bouncy castle, there's really nothing for me. There are also a lot of sermons on "how to have a good marriage" or "how to be a good parent," etc. These are important for sure, but not very inclusive for general worship. And it's impossible to be part of a women's class without most of the lessons being centered around motherhood. For single women who are childless, not only are these types of things not pertinent, they can be very painful. I would imagine married women who are childless feel the same way.	8/5/2015 3:27 PM
74	Most difficult has been that most small groups in my church only meet every other week. As a single every week is very important to me.	8/5/2015 3:27 PM
75	Feeling pressured to get married. Feeling as if I don't get married, I won't be successful in ministry. It also feels that if you don't get married, it's a sin.	8/5/2015 3:19 PM
76	We are ignored and overlooked. Silence is not neutral. There is no sense of validating living as a single person without the goal of marriage.	8/5/2015 3:15 PM

77	I would say connecting with the married brothers I serve with outside of church. Everyone is busy with their families and with my work schedule, it's very difficult to attend church functions.	8/5/2015 2:06 PM
78	General malaise towards singles. Singles ministries often don't get the same attention as student or family ministries.	8/5/2015 12:12 AM
79	Having the worst luck imaginable on dating sites, I would ask a woman that I met out, and she would either keep me waiting or instantly say No. Seeing others with their special someone and me not with mine is a crushing blow too.	8/4/2015 11:44 PM
80	Feeling frustrated about hearing people say things like the only reason for single people in the church is to help out the married/family's and "run things" at church because the others are too busy with raising their families. (Yes, this was said by a pastor) Also, feeling like the forgotten age group that no one cares about as soon as you finish high school, until you are married with kids...	8/4/2015 11:24 PM
81	None	8/4/2015 10:53 PM
82	This is a very transient group, not a lot of continuity over time. People come in and out of your life, and it is difficult to continue putting the effort in as new people arrive knowing most will move on to another church or another state/city, or (and this is the worst) into a marriage where they leave their single friends behind them.	8/4/2015 10:51 PM
83	With the young adults group at my church, one of the reasons I joined was because I wanted to be around people my age without the designations of a "singles" group or "married" group. But often (not always) when people become couples (dating or married) they leave the group. It's easy to feel devalued as friends or "dropped / left behind" in those cases. I would like to see more community between singles and dating / married couples and with people of all ages.	8/4/2015 10:16 PM
84	My small group leader hit on me and after months of flirting, we made out. A few weeks later, we had sex. We both felt bad and decided to break contact. I left the group and went radio silent. He would text often, almost to the point of harassment. When I asked him point-blank why he wouldn't just ask me out if he wanted to see me, he told me he could never seriously date a woman who wasn't a virgin. I wish this was a freak occurrence, but having been in the church for many years, I've heard many similar stories from other single women in the church. Stories of being disrespected, inappropriately solicited for sex, and then told off. And then the older generation will wonder aloud at me "I wonder why J-%^ isn't married. He's such a nice guy."	8/4/2015 9:10 PM
85	Probably conflicting advice from well-meaning people. Wait for God's timing and simultaneously pursue? Do people not see the contradiction? Also, please don't bore me with telling me to keep it zipped for the billionth time. I believe in that. What I need help with is attracting and impressing Christian women, and managing my own feelings in a way that doesn't close me off to women. That's the opposite of what many speakers and writers assume.	8/4/2015 9:06 PM
86	Most of the opportunities, especially around the holidays, are focused on families with children.	8/4/2015 8:53 PM
87	I have found it difficult to form meaningful relationships with those outside my age/demographic (this may be more a "megachurch" problem than a "singles" problem). Christians have not learned how to casually date well. There is way too much anxiety and pressure surrounding the idea of just going on a date. We need to learn how to date in a God-honoring way and to break up in a God-honoring way if it doesn't work.	8/4/2015 8:31 PM
88	Just the generally feeling that I get that people don't take me as seriously as an adult just because I'm not married. Also basically being the only single young adult in my church. It's isolating.	8/4/2015 8:27 PM
89	Church girls are afraid of dates. It is very hard to get to know someone without a genuine one on one time.	8/4/2015 8:15 PM
90	I have found that the most difficult thing about being single in the church is being over looked and not being invited to certain events and then the next time you see people they talk about the event like you were there and when you tell them you were not there because you did not know about the event until after the fact. Then they are embarrassed that you were not invited and you feel bad that they feel sorry for you! I have found that most people are kind and welcoming when I am there but because I do not have a husband and kids people sometime do not seem to know when I am not there. I think that the church could do a little bit better job including the single people in their social circles.	8/4/2015 11:53 AM
91	Having married people look at you with pity for still being single.	8/3/2015 10:56 PM

92	I would say that when people in the church make comments like, "Don't worry, you'll get married one day," when I know that might not be true and I feel like we are missing out on this very special time of being single, knowing it is God's best for me/us at this time. It has been hurtful when people act as if I am inferior or missing out because I am single instead of celebrating this time for what it is. It is also challenging when other singles solely discuss their woes of being single and their thoughts on how life will start once they get married. I know it is good to voice these thoughts and opinions and allow space for truth to be spoken. It can be a lot though. While I am grateful for the singles ministry I am a part of, it is also tricky because many come with the focus of finding a significant other and that is a constant undertone and can create an awkward environment.	8/2/2015 8:40 PM
93	Negative experiences for me occurred in churches whose main focus is on families and family activities and churches who don't even acknowledge singles at all.	8/2/2015 12:45 PM
94	It is difficult to find a man who is not afraid to pursue, communicate, and ultimately be intentional. I see a lot of single men and woman in the church that I attend and I wonder why they are all single but they all want to be in a relationship and eventually married. It is frustrating to see that we all want the same thing but what are we doing about it? Sometimes, I think fear of rejection, lack of leadership, or a man's unwillingness to approach a woman attributes to the reason of so many singles in the church.	8/1/2015 7:59 PM
95	Not getting invited to things because they thought only couples would want to go.	8/1/2015 5:10 PM
96	Lots of emphasis on marriage (sermons, verses, stories, etc.), which isn't a bad thing, it just creates a discontentment with being single.	7/31/2015 10:09 PM
97	There can be a kind of stigma that there is something wrong with you if you don't have a spouse.	7/31/2015 9:39 AM
98	I feel unworthy and unfit to lead because I didn't wait until marriage to be intimate.	7/31/2015 8:37 AM
99	I guess just the assumption that normal and healthy people marry. That has really gotten to me.	7/31/2015 7:54 AM
100	It's hard to sit in church alone. It would be nice to have others sit by me	7/30/2015 9:57 PM
101	I think the most difficult experiences as a single christian is finding someone who claims Jesus as their Lord and Savior that is on the same page in terms of sexuality and cultural standards.	7/30/2015 8:23 PM
102	Men and couples have access to pastors. As a single woman I don't have that access, which I understand to some extent because my husband was a cheater. I can't walk up to a pastor and start a conversation.	7/30/2015 7:06 PM
103	Feeling as I'm not part of the church yet until I get married.	7/30/2015 6:43 PM
104	Marriage is the goal. Singles are less than, not as mature, not as psychologically healthy.	7/30/2015 5:37 PM
105	Two things. 1) It is hurtful when people who marry young confuse "being single" with a college/teenage/pre-career lifestyle. I had a pastor who, on multiple occasions, conflated "singleness" with "freedom." He would say things in sermons like, "When you're single, you don't have to save for retirement." In fact, life planning as a single is very difficult, because you're the only person who's making sure that your laundry is done, your bills are paid, your retirement account is full, etc. 2) I have felt like pastors treat me as a single woman as dangerous - as though because I'm single and successful and attractive I have Jezebel's agenda and can't be trusted.	7/30/2015 5:27 PM
106	Uncomfortable when trying to join a new church and attending alone.	7/30/2015 5:09 PM
107	I was married for over 30 yrs and now When I am around other people that are married I just feel like the odd man out.	7/30/2015 4:55 PM
108	We are expected to serve more since we are not married. almost like you get a pass if you have a spouse or children. To me, in general, it seems as if you are viewed negatively if you are single. As if there's something wrong with you.	7/30/2015 3:47 PM
109	Being held to the standard of age. Being told "You're getting old, your biological clock is ticking" etc...instead of being told "God is the author of your time, and the maker of your womb, just trust him, enjoy and be content with where you are in life." Also I don't think churches preach enough of "You need to be complete in Christ before you get married" As in try to get all of the baggage and hurt healed before you get into a relationship if at all possible so you bring as little into a marriage as possible, marriage is hard enough and has it's own set of issues, we should do our best not to bring outside issues in. Encourage the singles to do as much mission work as they can while they are single, encourage them to confide in married men/women who are striving for a healthy Godly marriage (I personally don't confide in my single friends about relationship advice, why would I? They obviously haven't figured it out yet either!)	7/30/2015 2:26 PM

110	Sitting alone during services and don't want to ask people if I can sit with them. Leadership taking advantage of singles since they 'have more time available'. State from the pulpit it's great to be single, but all leadership is married and don't have a clue the innuendo they broadcast since they talk about their marriage/family all the time. I feel less. Not for the lack of trying, I have lost many Christian friends because they have moved on to marriage/kids and I haven't. Oh but 'will you babysit'?	7/30/2015 12:46 PM
111	Everything is done as couples: Sunday school, small group, church activities. It's all geared towards families. Why would I want to go and be the one person sitting by themselves?	7/30/2015 8:00 AM
112	Feeling a bit lonely/left out.	7/30/2015 5:11 AM
113	I feel that my past church sort of brushed over the topic of singleness. It was always geared towards marriage. During one series they were doing they said they were going to talk about singles the next week. I looked forward to it and was let down. Basically, he said "we talk about single people all the time, Jesus, Paul, etc" But, he didn't speak to us in the context of the series. Giving us pointers as singles in the church.	7/30/2015 12:21 AM
114	Being the only single person in my church over college age	7/30/2015 12:07 AM
115	Constant pressure to find a significant other, which makes "singles" things weird because I feel like it's a group date.	7/29/2015 10:10 PM
116	Regularly asked if I'm dating anyone and when I will start. Also, being assumed to be living in the stereotypical messy "bachelor pad" and not know how to cook, clean, or take care of myself because I'm a single guy. Also, unrelated, but equally difficult is gender specific retreats, teachings, conferences that cater to the extreme stereotypes and disregard those that don't fall into that category.	7/29/2015 8:37 PM
117	My bad experiences, as stated in the question, is more my own personal pain of feeling alone, unloved as I view husbands and wives during worship service being coupled. I miss that.	7/29/2015 8:02 PM
118	Feeling like I'm the only one not married. Feeling like every thing is based on being a couple	7/29/2015 8:02 PM
119	Seeing those who are living a professed sinful lifestyle in ministry in the Church.	7/29/2015 7:20 PM
120	Checking out all the other single people. Being envious of families.	7/29/2015 6:45 PM
121	I haven't had a difficult or bad experience as a single person. I am currently searching for a new church and the church I came from always showed me love!	7/29/2015 5:57 PM
122	People thinking I want to be with every woman I talk to	7/29/2015 5:44 PM
123	The feeling that I have done something wrong and that is why I am not married yet ("God only withholds gifts like marriage when you are not right with Him") . Or that I am not content enough in my singleness yet, and that is why I am not married.	7/29/2015 3:57 PM
124	I've attended singles events that seemed like a meat market for dating. The first time I attended, it felt like everyone was eyeing myself and a friend up for dating/ marriage potential.	7/29/2015 3:32 PM
125	Being honest about the struggles being an adult single. Not bring part of the " Christian married" crowd.	7/29/2015 2:52 PM
126	Not being invited to events that are billed for couples/families. Singles events are awkward pseudo dating events rather than spiritual fellowship times. I feel like I am not considered to be a full adult and that my responsibilities are marginalized because they do not include a husband and child even though I have many other significant responsibilities that fill my time just as fully.	7/29/2015 10:37 AM
127	As friends have gotten married, the sense that other married couples take them into the fold and are part of an exclusive club.	7/29/2015 9:38 AM
128	Being asked why I am still single or haven't gotten married yet.	7/29/2015 8:17 AM
129	Feeling alone. There seems to be a lot of family ministry things but singleness seems to get over looked at times	7/29/2015 7:01 AM
130	My church does an okay job of talking about singleness. There is one single ministry, but it is not for my age group. I have yet to have bad experiences. It just feels like singleness is a silent topic. I don't think I've ever had a conversation about being single with someone in the church.	7/29/2015 6:31 AM
131	I think the feeling that people with families always have "more important things" to worry about it makes it feel like the things in my life aren't that important. It makes me feel like the only true/good/real goal should be marriage, and those who have not yet achieved it are less because of it.	7/29/2015 5:25 AM

132	Difficulty in understanding the value of living as a single with the mainstream media blasting sex and relationships. Also, a lack of strong Christian relationships to counter the mainstream image of relationships, thus creating a fear of relationships.	7/29/2015 4:44 AM
133	You fkat out dont exist if your single until they need somepne in the nursery	7/29/2015 12:33 AM
134	Listening to the reasons permitted for divorce and wondering if my reason was ok, or a friends. (She was abused) and just feeling like an outsider in general. My church has a singles ministry for 20 something's. And another one for 40 and up.none for 30s and non for 30s with kids	7/28/2015 11:44 PM
135	I don't see any single people in leadership roles at the church	7/28/2015 10:57 PM
136	Just an overall lack of support for the struggles of being single. Only a few people I've seen (in the church as a whole) really talk about the pressures, anxieties, uncertainty, and fears that come with being single and this can make it really difficult to find guidance from those who understand your circumstances.	7/28/2015 10:54 PM
137	I am not sure if I have had many difficult or bad experiences related to my singleness in the church. Although, I do feel that it is not talked about enough, and I did not feel prepared from my church entering the dating scene for how a Christian should interact with the opposite gender. Most of my Christian dating advice has come from Boundless.org.	7/28/2015 10:52 PM
138	Increasingly feeling excluded because of "couples-only" hangouts among friends in the church. Additionally, it seems like there are few opportunities to meet other singles outside of maybe a co-ed life group (which are rarely open to singles -- usually it's for couples, or for a specific gender).	7/28/2015 10:38 PM
139	the inability of the body to carry on a conversation. Every Sunday people are awkward to talk to especially when they figure out that I'm single. It's like they forget the basics of human interaction.	7/28/2015 10:36 PM
140	Not being able to relate to those who have reached the married/family stage in life	7/28/2015 10:33 PM
141	I struggle to get connected with other singles. As far as a small group goes, I wish there were better mixes of couples/families, singles, male and female. I feel like our life groups cater to more "couples/families" or single females/single males. I have not found a mix of all.	7/28/2015 10:08 PM
142	I'm 28 and have only been a Christian for 4 years. And since then, dating had become much harder, harder to find someone that's both Christian (active) and around my age who isn't married or engaged. It's definitely tough, and I've been to Iraq which was a cakewalk in comparison.	7/28/2015 10:05 PM
143	I would say my most difficult experiences have been that there doesn't seem to be any potential people to date at my church, despite it being a pretty large church. I'm sure there are many singles there that I would connect well with, but there are limited opportunities to meet them, even despite a "singles group." I think it just comes down to the fact that people, even in the church, aren't willing to put themselves out there in order to meet someone, even though they probably have similar values/beliefs. They aren't willing to join the singles group because it makes them look uncool and too vulnerable. I think people are more willing to be set up if their friend knows you and is intentional about trying to set people up.	7/28/2015 10:04 PM
144	Very few - just a general reminder that I'd like to be partnered.	7/28/2015 9:51 PM
145	I think the hardest is just feeling left out. A lot of pastors are married and others who take the stage so a lot of analogies can be made only for those single or married. I actually feel my church's head pastor has done really well making analogies for all groups of people but other places or even Christian conferences I have gone to can leave you feeling quite out of it. I think it would help if more staffs had people who are single and if the stage was given to single people to help continue to keep people aware of single folks.	7/28/2015 9:32 PM
146	Feeling like I still can't trust men within the church to truly care about sexual purity. It feels like girls are so willing to settle, but that shouldn't be the case within the church. We should both be challenging each other.	7/28/2015 5:14 PM
147	Many times as a single person you get left out of certain group events because you don't come as a pair (small groups/dinners)	7/28/2015 3:42 PM

148	<p>Sitting alone in church week after week is hard. I'm in a transitional stage where I'm still getting to know people in my church. I wish people understood how much it would mean to me just to be asked to sit with them or invited to share a meal with their family or go with their family on an outing. Another hard thing is feeling isolated from knowing men of any kind (married or single). I don't want to steal anyone's husband, but I do enjoy conversation with men--I don't always want to be talking about girl stuff. It's hard when either the church doesn't provide any opportunities where I would be welcome (eg, all bible studies are segregated by gender) or when the men act like they can't be friends with me because I'm a single woman. This again is not really something the church can regulate per se. I just wish this mindset could change. Another difficult thing is when people act like single people aren't married because they are being too picky or because they are avoiding commitment. This may be true for some, but hearing people act like this is why I am single hurts me. Every person has a different story. It doesn't help to heap guilt on people who are longing to be married by telling them it is their fault. Lastly is the sense that you are not viewed as fully grown up until you are married. It is a very subtle thing and I'm sure people don't realize they propagate it.</p>	7/28/2015 3:36 PM
149	<p>Just the sense that they are not invested in us. That families come first and that there isn't enough resources or concern to have single ministry. This is worrisome considering the call of God to all people of all nations and not just one particular group. This has led to a disconnect where nominal singles feel out of place with no support for their stage of life. Instead, we have to cultivate on our own which makes the journey more lonely instead of empowering.</p>	7/28/2015 3:11 PM
150	<p>being grouped in with Student Ministries programming, especially the College Group</p>	7/28/2015 12:07 PM
151	<p>The way people try to set me up but with no thought. It takes more than being a Christian to be a good match with me. I also struggle with how demeaning purity culture is to me as a woman. Women are held responsible for not only our own sexuality, but men's as well. I don't believe that's healthy or even Biblical. I could go on and on about this. :)</p>	7/28/2015 11:05 AM
152	<p>My church is not into developing women. They develop their men and expect the men to pour into their wives. Except I don't have a husband. They also have a married club. I'm always seeing pictures in Facebook of game nights, dinners out, special holiday events. The only reason I'm not invited is I'm not married. People have commented that they feel like I wouldn't be comfortable around all married people. But I would rather that be my decision. I stopped going to my small group- originally it was just because I worked several times during group. No one noticed- I haven't been since November and no one has asked why or if I'm coming back. Singles are invisible.</p>	7/28/2015 10:12 AM
153	<p>It's gotten better, but I don't know where I fit in. People usually are friends with those to whom they are similar - so, other married couples with kids. They talk to me, and are friendly to me, but they tend to hang out with those who are married/with kids. It's understandable - many times there schedules are very different from mine (I work FT). Hard to know where to sit in church - with whom? Don't have anyone to go with to church weddings, that kind of thing. Like I said, it's better than it used to be, but still lonely in some ways. Also, I feel like I'm not "qualified" for certain ministries because I'm single. When I help plan a wedding shower, no one ever asks me to do the devotional --- after all I don't have experience being married. (Do you have to have experience to know God's Word?!) Things like that are hard - like I'll never quite attain unless I find someone. It's subtle, and I know people don't intend it, but it's still hurtful.</p>	7/28/2015 10:01 AM
154	<p>The talks about sex and purity stop after we turn 18. I guess they think we will be married soon. But really that stuff wasn't a struggle until later on in life for me personally and though I know a lot I haven't had a place to explore it more. I want a place where I can recover from past mistakes.</p>	7/28/2015 8:21 AM
155	<p>Feelings of loneliness</p>	7/28/2015 7:30 AM
156	<p>My church is very small so growing up there and being very involved in the ministry when I dated for the first time at age 23 people thought this was IT.They joked and asked when we were getting married and had already acknowledged him as a future father because of the way we appeared in church. Little did they know that I was trying to get far away from him! I just felt stuck because he had joined my church. And I've noticed the girls that age now are going through similar experiences to mine (making naive choices with marriage on their minds) because marriage is pumped up so much in church that once you finish school that's what you think is supposed to happen next. I felt like that was the expectation. But I've overcome that and I'm more content than ever in my singlehood. I'm not opposed to marriage but I'm not rushing towards it either because I know it's something I'm not ready for nor extremely passionate about and that's ok. I'm not lonely. I'm not depressed because I'm not with someone. I'm enjoying life where I am now. So the pressure to be married has been released and when and if God wants me to be He'll orchestrate that.</p>	7/28/2015 4:32 AM

157	The fact that American Christian married couples are so caught up in the busyness and concerns of their own lives that they only seem to make time for other married friends. I will say that I often see them reach out to young single ladies, but most (esp. those with young kids) make little to no effort to engage single men. Also, I would note that the wives often seem to discourage their husbands from spending time with their young, single male friends in the church.	7/28/2015 3:38 AM
158	Although my church has a good singles ministry, it seems that we get very little support from the rest of the church, including the church leadership. We sometimes feel cast aside to make way for something cooler, trendier, or more exciting. The only reason we still exist now is because we have a solid leadership team within the group that has put forth a great deal of effort to keep things going. It makes us feel like we are an afterthought to the rest of the church.	7/28/2015 1:56 AM
159	Feeling like the church leadership doesn't really know much about us as singles or what our singles' ministry even does or is about.	7/28/2015 1:56 AM
160	Haven't had any bad experiences.	7/28/2015 1:35 AM
161	Watching all my friends get married out of our college ministry to the point that only a few of us were left. When that happened the church had no idea what do with us post college singles. They didn't create a solid place for us to land. We were not the norm and we didn't fit the expectation of being married by that stage in our lives.	7/28/2015 12:18 AM
162	Nothing terrible but I do feel somewhat less respected as a single.	7/27/2015 11:52 PM
163	Not having a living example of how the church and Jesus are to interact for my students.	7/27/2015 11:20 PM
164	Being in a small group/bible study with primarily married people with children and feeling like me complaining about exams were devalued next to someone staying up with sick kids	7/27/2015 10:18 PM
165	Being devalued. Example....it would be great for you to come serve couplea on valentine's day so they can have a break and you can also learn do much from them.	7/27/2015 10:06 PM
166	They lump all " young adults" from ages 18-30 something in one category which isn't the case. College is one thing and career is another...	7/27/2015 9:12 PM
167	I dont know if I've had a bad experience related to being single?	7/27/2015 8:23 PM
168	People never really tell you to be comfortable in my singleness. They teach on getting hitched. Just saying its a turn off	7/27/2015 6:55 PM
169	I can't say that I've had any!	7/27/2015 5:38 PM
170	Being excluded from groups the require/encourage pairs	7/27/2015 4:41 PM
171	Not having the companionship of a man with me at church	7/27/2015 4:16 PM
172	Being accused of having an inappropriate relationship with someone else's husband that I didn't even know.	7/27/2015 4:07 PM
173	Lack of people in my age group	7/27/2015 3:12 PM
174	Often it seems like people just feel bad for you when you're single. Like oh just wait, your life will start when you get married.	7/27/2015 1:52 PM
175	Discerning the single life.	7/27/2015 1:28 PM
176	Haven't had any in my church but it is difficult when you meet someone and tell them you are in church and your views and beliefs about certain things.	7/27/2015 1:19 PM
177	The assumption that if someone else is single that it's a perfect match.	7/27/2015 1:01 PM
178	Fitting in	7/27/2015 12:32 PM
179	It's difficult to be a part of "Women's Ministries" because they are so geared towards mothers. Bible studies try to give life applications to whatever is being discussed and almost everything is about how you treat your husband or children. At the same time, though, I have never desired to be a part of a "singles ministry" because that could be a range of ages who I don't relate to. It's just a difficult place to fit in because I'm not even sure where I want to fit in. I love Jesus. I like church services. I don't care for small groups in my current place in life. For the record, I thoroughly enjoyed small groups when I was in high school.	7/27/2015 12:17 PM
180	There is nothing offered for this age range. There is no community or place to meet other singles.	7/27/2015 11:23 AM

181	It seems like everyone who is really and truthfully involved and serving in the church (or at least those that the congregation sees) are married couples. That alone makes it intimidating for a single person to try to get more involved.	7/27/2015 10:53 AM
182	Wanting a relationship and seeing young people gt married	7/27/2015 10:47 AM
183	In the last 8 months I made a very difficult decision to leave the church I had been with for the last 7 years (came to Christ at that church) for a variety of reasons but if I were referring to my experiences with that church, my answers to this survey would have looked differently. In becoming a member of a new church--how my singleness was referred to and integrated within my church was important to me. Some of the most difficult experiences as a single within the church come when those married with families don't see the gift or usefulness of being single. When marriage and family are elevated to a place they don't belong it begins to isolate singles from others in the church. I love living life with those who aren't in the same season of life as myself. However, I don't think many of us are equipped to work through the discomfort and unfamiliarity of walking with others who aren't in the same season or from the same background. A picture of our relationship to Christ is imaged in both marriage and singleness. Both beautiful, both necessary. Another area of misunderstanding (at least as a single woman) that can cause pain within the church is when the vulnerability that comes with being single isn't understood or protected. This is a harder tension for me to articulate. As a single woman in the church, I lean into the protection of the church in a unique way. We all lean into this but the absence of a spouse leaves me more tangibly reliant on it. I have the privilege of leaning into the Church as it images Christ's relationship to His bride where as those married live out that image in the covenant between one another.	7/27/2015 10:32 AM
184	I think the fact that my opinion doesn't mean as much because I have not had as much experience in life because I am "stuck in one stage"	7/27/2015 12:07 AM
185	Mostly just the categorization as 'a single'. As a 25 year old with a boyfriend at the time; with most of my friends not married, I was handed a pamphlet with this 80s looking person not it that said 'adult singleness' about how hard it is to be single. At 25, with most of my friends unmarried as well, I didn't think anything was wrong with me or that I was behind. I wasn't raised in the most conservative home and I was taught that I needed to find a job, get myself established before I think about marriage. Then, instantly, I felt like there was something wrong with me and as if I had just been put in a box with a label on it. I've found the hardest thing about being single isn't even being single, it's the outside pressure, and if you don't have a strong identity established in Christ, you could easily begin to doubt your relationship skills, the promises God has placed over your life, and your very identity. I find you have to have faith, you have to establish your identity on what Christ has said about you, not what anyone else says. You can't depend on people at church to know you who are and you can't blame them for it, you have to become firmly rooted and grounded in God's love and know who you are so it doesn't matter what anyone else thinks if it's contrary to what He says. I believe having leadership that is supportive of people currently single and preaches to everyone in their teaching and examples is super helpful, remembering there are children up through elderly and in all stages of life in the church.	7/26/2015 6:41 PM
186	Finding a compatible companion or mate with similar life goals, besides serving the Lord.	7/26/2015 3:47 PM
187	Conservative ideologies of many church members towards gays and Muslims	7/26/2015 3:07 PM
188	When I dated a fellow church member then we broke up & the pastor took sides.	7/26/2015 11:41 AM
189	I don't know if I can narrow it down to just one experience but my church makes a dangerously large deal of the covenant relationship without a balanced acknowledgment of unmarried people.	7/25/2015 11:54 PM
190	My church is full of beautiful young ladies, most of whom are in relationships, or are uninterested in either me or relationships. I feel pressure as a nearly 25 year old man because I see guys sometimes barely 20 years old becoming engaged when I've never had a successful relationship. The church is full of people who get married very young, and I feel it caters to marrying "the one" as soon as possible. A very difficult thing for me is that my church is full of young college age people, and married couples in their late 20s. I find it hard to relate to either croud as a 24 year old single guy. Additionally, when I was dating a young woman from my church, we would get invited to all sorts of gatherings with the late 20s couples. As soon as that relationship enended, so too did my community/fellowship with those people end.	7/25/2015 11:03 PM
191	Excluded from participation or assigned to "that table/group" because I'm not married - weddings, small groups etc	7/25/2015 9:52 PM
192	Being taught that you are a failure if you do not get married - preferably young.	7/25/2015 8:26 PM
193	People consistently asking "What's wrong with you that you're single" and/or "Why are you still single?"	7/25/2015 7:20 PM
194	EVERYTHING revolves around families and marrieds. There is a sense of being less than, that singles life can't possibly be AS complete as marrieds. If a single isn't a parent, it's only multiplied. "You're not really busy ... Or tired... Or stressed if you don't have children "	7/25/2015 6:41 PM



195	Visiting my pastor to get help during a traumatic divorce only to have him tell me to "Read this Bible passage" and "we'll talk later". Which never happened...	7/25/2015 5:53 PM
196	Either there is not a singles group or when a singles group is offered it tends to attract the social outcasts, "weirdos" or "losers". There seems to be programming for any other type of person except singles. Other uncomfortable experiences is people constantly asking you if you are dating someone/why not/etc.	7/25/2015 5:30 PM
197	Pressure to try to date single males in the church who are strong Christians but with whom there is no physical attraction.	7/25/2015 3:56 PM
198	This is not a factor in my church experience, nor should it be.	7/25/2015 3:53 PM
199	At times I have felt as though people at church look at me as less mature because I am single. At some churches I have attended (not Crossroads) I have felt as though there was always an undertone of advocating marriage as the "best path" for everyone, as if it were a higher place in God's eyes, which made me feel bad about being single. Outside of church I am generally very happy being single, and don't feel pressured by society to get married fast. I have tons of single friends my age and older. I do want to get married someday, but feel as though God wants me to be satisfied by Him alone and wish that church would encourage me in this instead of acting like marriage is better than singleness. Specifically, as a single woman, I have felt devalued at some churches I have attended (not Crossroads) and have felt as though my talents and dreams were not important to the church, but that every woman should be striving to be married and a stay-at-home mom. Even if I get married and have children, I still have many other dreams in life that I'd want to continue to pursue (which to some churches makes me a crazy feminist :).	7/25/2015 3:44 PM
200	A pastor told a romantic interest of mine(found he was homosexual) that he needed to date pretty girls.(I was not "pretty") A pastor thought singles could not handle money. There were several professional singles in the church who had very well paying jobs and very financially responsible.One was one the financial committee.He did not know she was single and asked her to teach a class to the singles on money to singles and was shocked when she told him she was single!	7/25/2015 12:26 PM
201	I havent really had any bad experiences	7/25/2015 12:05 PM
202	Not having anyone ever talk about singleness in an affirming manner.	7/25/2015 9:02 AM
203	Single shaming. Don't do it. Just because I'm not popping out babies like the Duggar's doesn't mean God can't use me where I'm at presently.	7/25/2015 3:17 AM
204	No ministries for single people and everyone always asks if you have a boyfriend/ when are you going to get married. Also, there seems to be a large emphasis on younger married people.	7/24/2015 10:54 PM
205	It's really hard to come to church by yourself without a partner or a group of friends. I didn't really know where to sit.... With other college age people? Near other couples (sort of weird)? Or with families? If I ever get married and have a family, I hope to be someone who welcomes the people who come to church alone. This might not be a challenge for others, but it is for me.	7/24/2015 4:36 PM
206	Not knowing what to do when you break up with a solid Christian guy. There's a lot of talk in the church about breaking up with someone who is leading you away from Jesus, but sometimes you date a perfectly good Christian guy and then you break up just because you are not right for each other. There is not a whole lot of discussion in the church on what to do at that point because many churches advocate (often implicitly) waiting to date until you have found "the One." A purity program at my church implied that if you date and break up too many times, you won't be able to be committed in your marriage. But how do you know if a guy is "the One" you want to marry until you date him? And once you do date him, you may find out that he's actually not a good fit as your future spouse, and then you break up (because sticking with it and then ending up in an unhappy marriage is NOT a smart choice when divorce is biblically not an option). Then, it's hard to navigate how to still treat him respectfully as your brother in Christ but also distance yourself to keep from being hurt. Christian break-ups are complicated, and we need more discussion about them. It's also frustrating to see so many sermons and books and ministries and retreats in the church about how to strengthen your marriage and only occasionally, sort of as an after-thought, will there be a short affirmation that "but being single is cool too!" At that point, though, the message has already been sent that marriage is much more valuable.	7/24/2015 3:22 PM
207	When individuals continually remind you of the blessing of singleness, it can be discouraging. Yes, it can be a blessing, but it doesn't mean that's how I want the rest of my life to be. A sermon or teaching over it is great, but a continual reminder by married couples can be frustrating.	7/24/2015 3:16 PM
208	Being left out of social gatherings or having friendships face with those who get married. It feels like people just don't know what to do with or think about a single person over age 28. Also, it becomes difficult to have close female friendships because people then wonder/make assumptions about your sexuality.	7/24/2015 2:41 PM

209	Usually when I am either being introduced by a fellow attendee or myself to another attendee. I feel as though the conversation is shallow and I receive a cold shoulder from the attendee once he/she or both at the same time, find out that I do have a child and not with the mother. Its not always the mans fault in the situation. She left me for her boss twice her age, shorter than her, who has more money. If i were to tell them the truth they would look at me as if I had an ego. I almost get defensive once I get the look of "another father not being a good man" gesture once they find out about my daughter and her mother and I are not together, the conversation quickly ends.	7/24/2015 2:39 PM
210	"Everyone" seeming to think that I "have" to be married to be happy and fulfilled.	7/24/2015 1:53 PM
211	People assuming that I am unhappy or lonely or focused on finding someone when I am really content and enjoying my life and I am focused on serving the Lord.	7/24/2015 12:33 PM
212	Not feeling as if Singleness is a life worth protecting. Much energy is put into protecting families and children, but singleness is often neglected.	7/24/2015 12:03 PM
213	Being excluded from couple type get-togethers.	7/24/2015 11:50 AM
214	Although I love Christmas , I usually feel lonely being amongst all the families at hiday services	7/24/2015 9:38 AM
215	If you read the bullets above, I marked my orientation as LGBT (more specific G). Right now I am in a stage where I am really "walking away from my faith..." meaning that I have been in a sexual relationship that is not necessarily committed (thus not reconcilable with any form of Christianity that I know). I know what the Bible says in Romans 1, and all of the other passages relating to "homosexuality." But the word from the church amidst the "culture wars" seems to be "Adam and Eve." Boiling that down, anything then that isn't "Adam and Eve" just doesn't seem to cut it. I'm not even necessarily talking exclusively about same-sex marriage. Such an argument seems to be to the exclusion of singleness too. Because for a guy not to enter into a physical relationship with a woman would ultimately be seen as wrong as well... (or lesser, or inferior, or somehow falling short of the best) The Church doesn't promote the whole "celibacy thing" as much anymore anyway (meaning monks, and nuns, and priests)... I myself had a lot (and still do) confusion over that when I was in a relationship with a girl. I had doubted my sexual orientation before. But when the relationship healthily started to lead in a more physical direction, all of "that" came to the forefront. I found that in general I was left with little to know one to talk to in the church. I wanted to tell people my struggles, but felt like ultimately, the only place for me to be in the church, would be if I "got married" to this girl. I couldn't do it. I broke up. And have since gotten into a sexual-relationship with a guy. I do not know if same-sex sexual relationships can theologically be reconciled with the Christian tradition or if the forbiddance of homo eroticism will always stand. Honestly, this seems like a lesser question. For me, the bigger question which has been driving me away from church, is why no room for anything but marriage? It seems to me that if you cannot get married, then the church really isn't the place for you; because the world after all has been constructed metaphysically as Adam/Eve since the beginning. It just seems like something in my experience of life (mainly sexual attraction pattern) doesn't fit that. So until I hear a different articulation of Christianity, I have absolutely no clue how to return.	7/24/2015 9:26 AM
216	People feeling sorry for me and think that I'm lonely.	7/24/2015 8:21 AM
217	Having the assumption be made that I should volunteer more or pick up more work in the church since they have more time from not having a husband or kids. I believe everyone needs to learn how to have good boundaries in all aspects of life. I was not encouraged but rather feel discouraged or selfish for taking time away from ministry for alone time each week. Still served! Wasn't trying to be lazy! But just needed to learn myself how to say no. Was not encouraged to have boundaries and take care of myself.	7/24/2015 6:20 AM
218	Not hearing the truth of Biblical singleness preached on a consistent basis. And when it is preached, it is rarely missionally-minded, as John Piper would say. Rather there is a apologetic tone to it as if it were looked down upon, when Isaiah and 1 Corinthians speak of the incredible Kingdom opportunities that come with singleness. Biblical singleness, that is.	7/24/2015 5:32 AM
219	The not being included in things in church or outside because you are single.	7/24/2015 1:02 AM
220	Never really difficult. At my current church there aren't many people my age which can be disappointing.	7/23/2015 11:56 PM
221	Watching my ex of 10 years get married. Wait that wasn't difficult. I encouraged it!	7/23/2015 11:30 PM
222	Running into loneliness once in a while but as a single person that loves Christ I'm mainly ok being single. Being married can be just as difficult.	7/23/2015 11:28 PM
223	When I'm in a season of really wanting to be married (but also in a season of singleness) and feel like I have no one to get wisdom from about how to keep focusing on God.	7/23/2015 11:18 PM

224	Having so few opportunities at building community within a church. Churches tend to be married oriented, and it's hard to find organic ways of connecting and building relationships.	7/23/2015 11:06 PM
225	I felt very abandoned by my church when my husband was telling me that he didn't love me anymore, and I eventually found out that he was having an affair. The church leadership refused to hold my husband accountable, and instead attacked me and my character, telling me that this "always happens for a reason" and I must not be submissive enough. When I finally filed for a legal separation, hoping that my husband would give up his mistress, I was degraded and shamed by church leaders. Two men on the board tried to get the church to follow Matthew 18, but they were overruled by the rest of the board. My husband counter-filed for divorce, and we went through a horrible custody battle, during which I actually lost custody of my five children for 6 months while I was forced to live with neighbors. The church refused to help me in any way, saying that they didn't want to get involved. The Lord intervened in spite of this, and I got custody of my children. I thought that if my husband had been immediately held accountable, and if we could have separated only until he proved that he was no longer in contact with his mistress and willing to restore our marriage, our marriage could have been saved. Instead, he was enabled by church leaders; one leader even went with him to support him in court. After over 20 years this still hurts me deeply. I recognize that God is sovereign, even over my husband's choices and the reaction of church leaders, and I know that I have to let this go. I know that the church leaders are not God, and that God loves and values me. The Lord helped me to raise my children, and all of them are following the Lord. I am so grateful for that.	7/23/2015 10:33 PM
226	When I was a younger single (throughout my twenties), there was a group of young-marrieds that were very rudely exclusionary of anyone who was not 'in their club'. The disbandment of that Sunday School class, while it became an issue for many of those couples (who then left the church), was an ending to nearly all (recollected) negative experiences as a single person in the church. I *would* like to see our church follow a bit more of what I've noticed that Alistair Begg does in regards to teaching, and that is (for the most part) they talk about the family as the Bible mentions the family, no more, no less. Continued sermon series on the family have, at points past, felt a bit like overkill; hence, an appreciation for exegetical preaching. :) Our church (GBC) has been very inclusive of all people...for Mother's Day, ALL women over 18 get to take home flowers for planting. For Father's Day, anyone got to take part in the Photo Booth we did. Even a few moms have, on occasion, thanked me for 'mothering' their kids. That has always been more appreciated than for which I can express in mere words. The only other thing that I would say that has been negative is that, personally, I have had six people that would categorize as 'stalkers' since I was in high school (phone calls, constant 'following', both with the eyes, and in actuality, unwanted gifts left at my house, 'cornering', attempts at inappropriate touching and conversations, etc., not taking strong hints, rude actions, and the word "No!" as "No!"), and more than half of them have connected via the church. I would very much like to see a much stronger, healthy presence of protection from godly men in the church when these scenarios are present.	7/23/2015 9:57 PM
227	Going back to an old church and if I can't update people on being married or having a child getting pitied even though I don't pity myself. I then ask, "would you like to know how my amazing life is going?"	7/23/2015 9:43 PM
228	Just coming to church and feeling alone. The awkward signing up for groups by myself. Potlucks where you're the only person your age without a family.	7/23/2015 9:33 PM
229	Most of the people in my home church that I grew up in tend to be more on the traditional/conservative side of life. As a single female who has had both successes and failures in my work and schooling and as someone who also has further ambitions, I feel that I have a lot to talk about. Almost anytime I'm in conversation with those from my home church, they always sway the conversation to asking if there's anyone significant in my life. Then when I always reply no, the conversation senses to continue. This isn't always the case but it has happened to me multiple times with people from back home. In situations like this, it makes me directly and indirectly feel like what I'm doing or saying has no signifiants unless I'm with a strong christian man. It would be one thing if I wasn't aware of how they interact with other young women who have a boyfriend or who were engaged, but I am. Just through witnessing and being a part of this, I feel that others think of me as less mature and don't treat me with the same level respect as the do those who are not single. Me choosing to be single and pursue other things does not make me less of an adult. Most times I don't feel like this from people I interact with at church but there have been district occasions where this has been very evident.	7/23/2015 9:02 PM
230	The most difficult are the sermons that are focused on marriage or parenting because those are things I yearn for in my own life and it highlights the absence. However, I do see the value of speaking of marriage and family issues because they are very important to the Church as a whole. The pastor often adds caveats that imply that singleness is a worthy option, but the blessings of it are not usually emphasized on the same level as the blessings of having a family. Satan will use those insecurities to dig into my hurt and reopen the wounds. He uses it to make me feel of less worth. I don't see it as the fault of the church, but more as a spiritual battle.	7/23/2015 8:44 PM
231	Hard to make friends. Most are married my age and don't make effort to meet single girls.	7/23/2015 8:03 PM

232	Being forgotten around holidays. With no family around if I have to work the night before or of I end up spending it by myself. Which makes people whining about stores being open on Thanksgiving and not inviting those who are by ourselves incredibly hypocritical .	7/23/2015 7:44 PM
233	I think church people who try and match-make are funny.	7/23/2015 6:17 PM
234	I think/feel that the church does not know how to minister to us, and may think "What do we do with the single people?"	7/23/2015 6:09 PM
235	People assuming hooking you up with any other single person is better than you being alone.	7/23/2015 6:04 PM
236	I think it is difficult for single men to make more than casual friendships. Some churches do pigeon hole us. I think Christian men fear getting close to other men, as part of their fear of being seen as homosexual. I can't say I ever had a really close friendship with another pastor, which is sad.	7/23/2015 4:52 PM
237	Trying to have real community with young married couples. They will often only invite other couples to their house, as if I am somehow unable to participate because I don't have a husband. It's alienating and makes me feel like they don't want to be friends with me. When I am throwing a party, I invite all of my friends. I don't exclude my married friends. I think they are afraid of making me feel bad because I am not married, which, ironically, is exactly how I feel when not invited to an event where I am friends with literally every person there only because I don't have a significant other.	7/23/2015 4:31 PM
238	Feeling like all the singles guys and girls don't know how to hang out, don't know how to be friends, don't know how to be supportive Christian family together without the expectation of coupling up.	7/23/2015 4:29 PM
239	There is this subtle judgment I feel as a single Mom. I think people automatically assume that I am inferior because of it maybe because they think I became a single Mom out of wedlock or something vs I was married & had kids & my husband was violent & abusive & so I left. There are a lot of assumptions surrounding singleness which I find ironic considering Paul was single for the sake of Christ.	7/23/2015 4:16 PM
240	Friends largely (even very close ones) stop being friends in the same way they were prior to them getting married/having children.	7/23/2015 4:02 PM
241	You feel as if you're not part of the church community. All activities are geared towards kids, families, or young singles (high school and college age). Even in service you sit by yourself. It feels lonely.	7/23/2015 3:42 PM
242	None.	7/23/2015 3:34 PM
243	Feeling like everyone around me is getting married and I'm falling behind if I'm not. I don't think that this is a problem with the church specifically, but with the culture around being single and a Christian.	7/23/2015 3:33 PM
244	People looking at me with pity because my life is "empty or missing something" being single.	7/23/2015 3:26 PM
245	Feeling alone.	7/23/2015 2:12 PM
246	Sometimes church makes me feel like marriage is a requirement for life.	7/23/2015 2:05 PM
247	Homosexuality is a sin and then if you pray God will take away the temptation of being gay. I feel it's okay to be gay. God loves you either way, and it's not a temptation. It's exactly like heterosexuality, and should be treated as such.	7/23/2015 1:10 PM
248	Our young adult group turned into a young marrieds group. Which leaves me to either not be a part of any group or join the post college (22-25 year olds)	7/23/2015 1:10 PM
249	i feel as a single christian, I'm looked down upon for not being married at my age. And people who are married or engaged treat me as if I'm to be pitied or can't understand their life/problems or don't care	7/23/2015 12:58 PM
250	I don't want to be the guy trying to pick women up in church but it is really hard to meet good women, where a lot of single guys want to hang out.	7/23/2015 12:19 PM
251	None.	7/23/2015 12:09 PM
252	Being a single person with children in the church is especially difficult as there really is no one else in your "life stage" group and you feel out of place both among families and among singles	7/23/2015 11:43 AM
253	Normal men, don't go to church. Praying for a miracle :P	7/23/2015 11:32 AM
254	It seems if someone does not have a socially accepted career path or is not currently being educated, the alternative is being valued for status as a husband/wife or father/mother.	7/23/2015 11:16 AM

**Q20 (Optional) What would encourage you most as a single person in the church? And/Or how would you most feel included in the vision and ministry of the local church?**

Answered: 213 Skipped: 291

#	Responses	Date
1	First and foremost, a recognition that not everybody fits the young adult/newly married/young kids/adult congregation pattern, and then asking them what they are actually looking for, rather than assuming.	8/18/2015 10:00 AM
2	More single ministries, conferences, and fellowships.	8/17/2015 11:23 PM
3	Get rid of the word "single" to describe lifetime celibates.	8/16/2015 10:43 PM
4	I think if it was not brought up as a point of labeling someone's value as being single or not that would be better. We want to worship God and fellowship and it's awkward to be labeled and therefore looked at and treated differently. People in similar age groups should just blend together without labeling people as single or taken. We can usually figure out who's who once we arrive.	8/16/2015 10:29 PM
5	To have a viable Singles ministry	8/12/2015 12:18 PM
6	I am included in many areas because my Pastor trusts me and God blesses me with ministries.	8/12/2015 10:31 AM
7	I could be encouraged the most I n the church if being single was actually taught at church and not just how wonderful being married is. Single can be wonderful to	8/11/2015 10:54 PM
8	Good friends encouraging me through loneliness.	8/11/2015 10:02 PM
9	Although I am single that is not my main focus ministry/life wise. I honestly don't enjoy singles focused ministry I'm content in my singleness , I haven't lost hope, I believe God has someone for me, etc I have friends from church I hang out with single and other wise. I would rather focus on being a contributing member to the body of Christ.	8/11/2015 5:42 PM
10	I would feel most encouraged as a single person in the church if all singles were actively working towards their purpose.	8/11/2015 4:13 PM
11	Being included on committees and in various forms of service.	8/11/2015 3:48 PM
12	Having a social group event catered toward young singles.	8/11/2015 2:22 PM
13	a message that singleness isn't bad. It's completely ridiculous to have a pastor who got married young to preach to modern Christians about the importance of marriage. The message is lost. Recruit unmarried Christians to speak with a platform of leadership.	8/11/2015 2:21 PM
14	I think language in the church is an easy thing to change. I just think of how announcements are worded and illustrations are given that includes singles and even couples without children.	8/10/2015 5:18 PM
15	To be looked to for leadership because of my time and availability. To let the singleness not be a thing. I think Paul talks about that, in Christ, there is no marriage or singles. We're all one. Too often it feels like there are too many distinctions between these types of people.	8/9/2015 10:22 PM
16	Realizing that this is a stage of life that God has for me right now. Don't assume I'm living a miserable life because I'm single. But don't also assume that I'll do everything because I'm single. There are benefits to being single but it also means that I often have to work hard to have community because it's not built into my life naturally.	8/8/2015 6:25 PM
17	A place to lead that does not involve children's ministry.	8/8/2015 3:22 PM
18	What has encouraged me in the church is the older males taking me under their wings and pouring their lives into me. Helping me grow and get ready for the marriage season of life. Encouraging me to continue to grow in grace and prepare to love my wife in an honoring way. All the while, not pressuring me to date, but focus on Christ and let that take care of itself.	8/8/2015 11:52 AM

19	more opportunities for singles who aren't students (grad or undergrad) to get to know each other, hang out and be part of the community at large	8/8/2015 11:32 AM
20	Families and other generations including me and valuing my life stage.	8/7/2015 10:49 PM
21	A session on the benefits of singleness hahaha. Not a mention of "it's not a bad thing" - I want someone to tell me I'm doing the right thing if I'm currently single and a relationship hasn't happened yet.	8/7/2015 10:32 PM
22	Inclusion. Sometimes when your divorced others may feel you can't be trusted even if you were not the cause.	8/7/2015 9:49 PM
23	I am included and loved by my church I am an active intercessor	8/6/2015 9:41 PM
24	Having more volunteer events for the whole church. I don't particularly like having family day and singles day, and would prefer serving with the entire church.	8/6/2015 2:20 PM
25	Will encourage me most people guiding me to be right before God	8/6/2015 1:41 PM
26	I very much appreciate when my pastor teaches about relationships, sex, and love from the perspective of a married individual as well as from a single person's perspective. Don't leave the single people out when talking about marriage, as most of us very much want that someday!	8/6/2015 10:07 AM
27	Not being singled out or secluded. As an adoptive mom to 2 girls and never been married, its difficult to navigate into a small group with other children the same age.	8/6/2015 9:25 AM
28	If there were singles events and gatherings on a regular basis. Have coordinated dinners each month with just singles, or specifically families and singles.	8/6/2015 8:21 AM
29	I think i feel most included when it is the WHOLE church body together- all ages. I think dividing is strange, we should be learning from all stages of life	8/6/2015 2:09 AM
30	It is actually a privilege in my mind to get to do the mundane things of life like eat and grocery-shop with others (often assumed for families but rarer for singles). Having communities that don't just come together for "events" but for the "normal/mundane" of life would help me as a single person. I would also be encouraged to see single pastors. Not sure entirely why this seems to be an extreme rarity.	8/6/2015 12:25 AM
31	To be encouraged in my singleness, that singleness is GOOD and not something to just "wait out" until marriage.	8/5/2015 11:29 PM
32	To be understood and supported in my dreams and goals-the ones that don't center around marriage! I also just want to experience connection and fellowship as a person...not one of the single girls.	8/5/2015 11:23 PM
33	I would feel most encouraged if people in the church sought to encourage me in all the other areas of my life and helped me make the most of my strengths as a single person, but still being sensitive to the fact that I do hope to find a godly man to marry and have a family.	8/5/2015 11:02 PM
34	I think I am most encouraged when I am purposefully included in life outside of church. When others consider that holidays may be difficult for me,.	8/5/2015 10:43 PM
35	Singles ministry. Outreach to singles. Being loving to singles. (Not just me - what about giving valentines to widows, providing a meal for widows or single moms, creating a single dad's camping trip...	8/5/2015 10:20 PM
36	To hear other single people complain less. That singleness could somehow be celebrated in how it does help to edify the church and expand the kingdom	8/5/2015 10:09 PM
37	Singles being valued/honored and expressed as to how much they are needed. I hear married people say how much time they had as singles yet were so focused on the day they would finally be married. I hear married people talk about what a difference they could have made in the church with their free time but no longer have it since they are married/have children but the church does not mention this much to singles.	8/5/2015 10:04 PM
38	I think I would like if the married young couples befriended the singles more and tried to advocate for them to other singles.	8/5/2015 9:47 PM
39	I love that my pastors speak about singleness being a viable option. I also feel like my church does a great job of plugging all types of people into service areas. As a single I sit on my church's board, read scripture, and serve on committees. I'm not limited in my service to the church by my marital status.	8/5/2015 9:43 PM
40	Honestly, for people wanting to get married, there is no good answer. I don't want to only hang w/ married people, but it is nearly impossible to not make singles ministries super lame/meat market like. I have never been to a church that handled singles ministry well	8/5/2015 9:36 PM

41	I would jump at the chance to be identified as a Christ Follower rather than by my relationship status. I go to church in Grand Rapids and recently went to a women's ministry gathering. Everyone introduced themselves by whom they were married to. It feels awfully lonely and devaluing to identify myself as "Holly the girl with a career" compared to married women with kids that mostly stay home. I would eagerly welcome the gift to be a stay at home mom, but currently that's not my season of life. Instead of being addressed as marrieds and singles, what about daughter or son of Christ?	8/5/2015 8:55 PM
42	When giving applications from sermons if it applies be sure to touch on the applications for singles, don't ignore it.	8/5/2015 8:43 PM
43	Pastors and leaders in the church who value singles are so important. Valuing singles events and sermons and not just as a waiting area until marriage.	8/5/2015 8:13 PM
44	I feel pretty included in the vision but as far as encouragement, I would like to see more people "like me". Those who understand that there are gray areas and that not everything is "black and white". Less fundamentalism and judgment, with more grace and critical thinking.	8/5/2015 8:09 PM
45	If they were to actually pull the young single adults into the church ministries instead of making them feel like they are the alternative, not the majority.	8/5/2015 8:01 PM
46	I'd be encouraged if the culture of the church shifted a bit to simply include me socially as a single person. Aside from that, I'd love for people to see who I am as just me... I'd love to feel deeply valued for who I am, and that people see me as a worthy friend, married or not.	8/5/2015 8:00 PM
47	Being included with other 20 somethings regardless of marital status. I love spending time with married women as much as single women, and feel more comfortable interacting with men when their wives are present. I'm not always comfortable being around single men, even in public.	8/5/2015 7:51 PM
48	To stop looking at those who are single as valueless and unfulfilled. Be aware of the comments that indicate a "marriage or death" mentality. And for Pete's sake do not pity us. Include us in things, but only because we are fellow workers of Christ, not because you want us to meet someone at the gathering or whatever. Maybe stop using the phrase, "singleness is a gift", because when you're single and you don't want to be, it's not actually a gift. In fact, encouraging us to find our natural gifts, through service, worship, etc., is far more valuable than a spouse anyway. It would also help to separate college-aged students and young professionals if you do have small groups, because, as a young professional, I don't share the same experiences as college kids any more.	8/5/2015 7:42 PM
49	More discussion on how to date as Christians in our society. More encouragement for us (mostly the men, sorry but the ball is in their court) to try and find their match in the church.	8/5/2015 6:55 PM
50	I am more than marriage material! Discover my strengths. Develop me as a leader. Let me serve the body of Christ in meaningful ways even though I don't have a husband.	8/5/2015 6:34 PM
51	Steps toward a life long believed in Christ for singles	8/5/2015 6:17 PM
52	Being included in families when I don't have my own family is a big thing. Also, I love being friends with married couples, and especially being in a small group with them, because it helps me to see that marriage is not this magical fix-all. My friends who showed me that marriage can be a partnership where each person continually points the other to the gospel are probably the most compelling reason for me to desire marriage.	8/5/2015 5:50 PM
53	For some reason, young adult groups tend to be populated exclusively with singles, even though there are married couples of a similar age with no kids in the body. I think it would benefit to have both groups together as singles can learn from our married counterparts.	8/5/2015 5:44 PM
54	To be included and thought of in my stage of life. It's nice to just do laid back things with couples and families. I love churches that feel like a large family, when people look out for you, protect you and help think of my future with me.	8/5/2015 5:36 PM
55	Sermons on how singleness is not bad or a waiting room until you get into a relationship or married. And to be intentionally told that single people are just as important as married people.	8/5/2015 4:54 PM
56	I think it would be really encouraging even just to hear from the married leadership/pastors that they don't understand what I'm going through, what my particular struggles are - acknowledging the challenges of singleness without pretending they know all about it "because they were single once." I think moving towards singles (rather than ignoring or trivializing the unique hardships) and celebrating our unique contributions to ministry and the church would go a long way.	8/5/2015 4:31 PM
57	More of a focus on combining all age groups/stages of life. I'm just not a fan of age-specific (or even life-stage specific e.g. "single women's") small groups.	8/5/2015 4:13 PM

58	When pastors are praying from upfront, acknowledging the singles in the congregation and not just praying that they would be satisfied in Jesus "until they are married". The general attitude that you are still a whole person if you are not married, and it's totally fine and God's will that you are single, not a devastation.	8/5/2015 4:06 PM
59	I think a balance between having a singles ministry while also including singles with married couples. I'm in a season of life that I have more free time because I don't have a husband or kids so I would like to be around other singles who are also available to hang out more regularly. But, I still enjoy and find value in spending time with marrieds, I just want to not have to choose between hanging out with my single friends or with my married friends.	8/5/2015 3:42 PM
60	I appreciate people who view me as complete the way I am. Jesus Christ is my better half...actually my whole. I don't need a spouse. I just need Jesus. Having said that, my need for Christian community may be stronger given that I don't have anyone at home to pray with/grow with. I don't know. I've never been married so it's difficult for me to compare.	8/5/2015 3:32 PM
61	It would be nice to see more single people in church leadership. I'd also like to see more robust singles ministries, where the singles group does a lot more together outside of church ... like volunteer activities, Sunday lunches after worship service, etc. It seems like most singles groups only have Sunday school and an annual beach trip. It would also be great if the church's adult classes and studies could be more organized around areas of interest rather than just life stage. What if people participated in a study on John or Thessalonians because they were interested in learning more about John or Thessalonians, and not because they're women or singles or mothers of toddlers or empty nesters or whatever? How revolutionary! Sometimes segregation can make singles feel more like outsiders.	8/5/2015 3:27 PM
62	To see singleness preached in churches.	8/5/2015 3:19 PM
63	I'd like the opportunities that singles have (specifically availability with going overseas etc) to be pointed out and valued. Usually singles aren't known in the church as well. Not exactly sure how to remedy that.	8/5/2015 3:17 PM
64	having single pastors speak - a more inclusive visible presence that represents people in different stages of life. Also frequently speaking out about the idolatry of marriage in the church.	8/5/2015 3:15 PM
65	I believe things will change, for me personally, when I get to another shift at work. I work at night while others attend programs and enjoy their families.	8/5/2015 2:06 PM
66	Having a member of staff actively engaged with the singles ministry.	8/5/2015 12:12 AM
67	That people would not fail to realize that I am not under any specific category, and that I have a lot to offer.	8/4/2015 11:44 PM
68	To feel like people care about us. We hear messages all the time that are geared towards families and never towards where needs are. When you hear a pastor speak about how hard it is to be single when he's been married since he was 20 is hard to take. You have NO IDEA!!	8/4/2015 11:24 PM
69	Being part of one of the church's small men's groups has been the most encouraging and important part of my church community life.	8/4/2015 10:51 PM
70	Not to be "singled" out - ha! lol. I get tired of the sermons about being able "to do more since not married" - doesn't really touch the heart. All have unique gifts that can be used for God's glory. Marriage is a lot of work too. I guess an emphasis on the Adventure and Romance of Life with God is encouraging and to be reminded that marriage is real life too with good and bad days and that our worth / completeness is in God's Love for us whether single or married. It is really extremely painful / hard at times to desire something (marriage, etc.) and to have that hope deferred, but it's important to keep living into the joy that can be found in each day of walking with God and the blessings in front of you. Ultimately, it is God who fills the deepest desires of our hearts.	8/4/2015 10:16 PM
71	I often serve families (child care, family camp, VBS), but wouldn't it be cool if married couples hosted an event for singles to recognize and honor them? I just want to be seen by married people, taken in, and included. Older, younger, kids, no kids---doesn't matter.	8/4/2015 9:10 PM
72	Understanding me?	8/4/2015 9:06 PM
73	I think specific vocational awareness programs for singles would be helpful. I also think since most singles I know generally want to be married that healthy Christian dating services/mentoring would be a cool idea.	8/4/2015 8:53 PM
74	The church should encourage younger singles to abandon perpetual adolescence and pursue Godly dating and marriage, including putting away unrealistic expectations of a future spouse. At the same time, the church should fully value all single adults as members and challenge/support them to live a devoted and missional life now instead of first waiting for the perfect spouse/companion. Put single adults on the platform. Give them leadership positions. Welcome them into your families and help them build intergenerational relationships. Recognize how hard it is to live a pure and celibate lifestyle (for most of us until we marry, but others for a lifetime).	8/4/2015 8:31 PM



75	Discussion of premarital sex. Also, I don't think Christians should be getting married to have sex, or it shouldn't be as big of a factor as I feel young Christian couples make it.	8/4/2015 8:29 PM
76	I feel like there's so much pressure on purity and saving yourself for marriage, but not much understanding that in today's society, that's a really challenging thing to find. I probably could be married by now if I had made moral compromises or settled for someone outside of who I was taught to wait for. But instead of being encouraged for that, I feel like I'm more condemned for not being married yet. I can't make God send me a spouse any more than anyone else can. I'm doing what I've been taught and waiting for who God sends to me, but being taken less seriously because He hasn't sent him to me yet. And that can be painful. I suppose I would feel more included if that was at least more acknowledged.	8/4/2015 8:27 PM
77	What would encourage me the most as a single person in the church is to just be invited out to lunch by members of the church and talk about that morning's sermon, any ideas I have for the church or any prayer requests and then have that person really listen to what I have to say! I guess what I really want is to have an older spiritual mentor that can share with me some of their wisdom that only comes with age and I can share some of my struggles and vision for the church.	8/4/2015 11:53 AM
78	Discuss and explore the season of singleness and why it is not lesser than people in a relationship. Look at current relationships for opportunities to practice Christ's love and being content in the current season.	8/3/2015 10:56 PM
79	I think really creating an environment/culture that allows singles to feel comfortable to be single, celebrates this time of life, and encourages them to seek Christ above all.	8/2/2015 8:40 PM
80	Knowing that I'm not alone and that there're others who are in a similar position. I think a singles group, even if it is small, would be a huge asset. Having a group where single Christians could have fun and support each other would help alleviate some of the loneliness and isolation we feel-especially for those of us who work a lot and have a difficult time meeting people in general.	8/2/2015 12:45 PM
81	It would be encouraging for me to see men and woman leadership in the church increase. To see the more of the older generation step out and disciple younger singles.	8/1/2015 7:59 PM
82	I would love for families to be more open about inviting single people to their homes and hanging out with them.	8/1/2015 4:22 PM
83	I would be encouraged if the highlights of being single (freedom, mobility, options, extra time) were highlighted and viewed as a gift rather than a burden.	7/31/2015 10:09 PM
84	I think maybe it is a part of the Western culture that singleness is just less than ideal so I would like the church to counter that attack through sermons, etc.	7/31/2015 9:39 AM
85	There are amazing examples in Scripture and church history of men and women who glorified God with their lives in ways they could not have done so with the commitments of marriage and children, Jesus himself being the chief example. Some of these men and women lived their entire lives in singleness and some did great works for God in a season of singleness. I think single Christians would find great encouragement if the lives of these men and women were shared from church leadership more often. Also, I have longed to see from my church family more singles being invited in to share life with married couples and families. Even with a great circle of friends and a dedication to serving God and others through singleness, the single life can be lonely. My encouragement to married couples would be, when you're making plans, don't just consider your core family unit, but consider your larger family as well and think of simple ways to include the single brothers and sisters in your church. Simple invitations to dinner or to meet for playtime with your kids at the park or to come help with home improvement projects could quickly change a single man or woman in the church from living a life of isolation to being included in the life of the church family at a very practical level.	7/31/2015 9:34 AM
86	Knowing that it is worthy of praise still, not just an exception. Also, I personally really need an accountability partner with sexual immorality and just in general, because when you're single you don't have really anyone keeping you in check.	7/31/2015 7:54 AM
87	Asked to be on committees or in groups	7/30/2015 9:57 PM
88	I already feel included in the vision and ministry of my local church; they do an excellent job of that. However, it would be much more encouraging if there were more social events, pot-luck dinners, or maybe even activities on Sundays after church like a breakfast where you can all just join together in fellowship and get to know even more people.	7/30/2015 8:23 PM
89	Be integrated into the church with other and not separated	7/30/2015 6:43 PM
90	To be spoken of, treated as equals.	7/30/2015 5:37 PM

91	I understand this is a tricky issue, but this is a reality: in most churches the lead pastors are men. Yes, it is important to be prudent. However, this also means that as a single woman I am the ONLY kind of person who does not have access to the one-on-one counsel of their pastor. It feels like discrimination. It is possible for a pastor and congregant of opposite sexes to meet one-on-one with parameters that ensure the integrity of the situation and guard the character of both people.	7/30/2015 5:27 PM
92	If current members would notice new people coming in alone and just acknowledge that they are there in case we need help knowing where to go or what to do. It can be very uncomfortable when you walk into a new church by yourself and don't know what is expected, where to sit, what the routine is, etc.	7/30/2015 5:09 PM
93	#1 - Get involved, serve however you can. It is encouraging to do so and you don't feel like a #, (more true at large churches) #2 - Stop comparing and being compared to past generations, they had different expectations growing up and they have the same expectations on you. Realize that their views can stem from their upbringing and traditions, not from scripture. #3 - Let scripture and the guiding of the Holy Spirit be your guide.	7/30/2015 3:47 PM
94	Have a few singles that lead a group of ministry opportunities, honor singles on Valentines day, reiterate that it's better to be single, you have more freedom to serve God with your whole heart, and not have the weight of a family on your shoulders. Have some of the families invite the singles over for dinner, or have a big banquet that is just for them, and have the married people serve the singles. Show that they are valued as a part of the church, if they are doing mission work, assign specific families to adopt them in prayer, and send care packages etc to them. Help them with their bills, it's hard doing it all on your own sometimes.	7/30/2015 2:26 PM
95	I tend to appreciate it when pastors treat singleness as just a life stage that you may or may not leave, just as marriage is a state that you may or may not enter. Sometimes churches tend to devalue singles; hearing the value from the pastoral level seems to help negate that.	7/30/2015 1:46 PM
96	Being valued. Being recognized as normal. Being understood. Married people to realize they look down on the unmarried.	7/30/2015 12:46 PM
97	Having more Singles around me, and to be told that it's ok. Not in a sympathetic way, but in an authentic way.	7/30/2015 8:00 AM
98	Being included with families that are in other stages. Invited for meals etc.	7/30/2015 5:11 AM
99	I would feel most included if the church didn't focus only on family and marriage. I love being included with people of other life stages and ages, but I don't like it when sermons/ Bible studies don't apply to me because I'm not married. (Telling me to remember it for later in life is THE WORST, so don't try that)	7/30/2015 2:31 AM
100	Having a group study for singles. Getting in depth about the things we have to deal with like setting boundaries in dating. Also, how to get more involved with the church and other singles when you don't have money to go out.	7/30/2015 12:21 AM
101	If singles were taught to as well as those who are married with families	7/30/2015 12:07 AM
102	To not have marriage be always taught as the end goal or relationships, or as an inevitable outcome in life. Also seeing small groups actively crossing age, life stage, gender, and racial classes. The Church has always been called to be a place for everyone to find belonging and acceptance, not segregation into preference and homogenous groups of people.	7/29/2015 8:37 PM
103	If I could become what the New Testament tells us single people should do, should become, living for Christ. If I could build a relationship of great faith, with My Father in heaven so beautiful it would over shadow my lust for a husband. If I could teach.	7/29/2015 8:02 PM
104	For the Church to stand strong against the moral slippery slope that the world is sliding down and the Church to back me up on my choice to stand against the depravity that is wrecking society for our kids.	7/29/2015 7:20 PM
105	Understanding what a Godly courtship looks like. Having a spiritual alternative to the State institution of marriage.	7/29/2015 6:45 PM
106	I would like to be treated just like someone who was married. I enjoy volunteering and ministering to others, it's not going to stop me, just because I am single. The one thing I have noticed is the singles groups are for those 35/40 or older. What about those of us in our late 20s? It'd be nice to see a group our age too.	7/29/2015 5:57 PM
107	While I do like connecting with singles in the church I don't being separated with only singles.	7/29/2015 4:46 PM
108	Having people who are single and at a more advanced age to show me how to do it right.	7/29/2015 3:57 PM
109	The Evangelical cultural focus on marriage can be damaging. Value your single members as equals, and recognize that is OK to be single, and those how are single have a unique opportunity to serve the church and the world in a way that other cannot.	7/29/2015 3:32 PM
110	There is a place for middle-age divorce/single Christians. There is a lot of focus on young singles or middle-aged married couples but not so much middle-age single people.	7/29/2015 2:52 PM

111	Single women are ignored. Their opinions are not sought out and the "female perspective" generally comes from pastor's wives which is biased and unfair. Women are devalued because church leaders (male) only see full value in the roles that they fill. Because a woman can't preach she is not worth investing time in and is only able to fill roles like cleaning or helping with children (which should be valued and as deserving of the leaders attention, but which are not).	7/29/2015 10:37 AM
112	Meeting single woman in a young adult community	7/29/2015 8:17 AM
113	learning more about Gods love	7/29/2015 7:01 AM
114	I would be encouraged more by being directed as a single person. I've been involved with mentoring younger women, and I would love for the church to support younger singles in the church more. Even, older singles need to be supported more. There is a big push for family and college kids but it feels like a single person with a career is forgotten after they graduate. I want other singles to be encouraged to work in the body more, and to become a defined part of the church rather than the invisible group they are now.	7/29/2015 6:31 AM
115	One of the hardest things about being single is that it feels like everyone else around you has family. You have friends that care about you, sure, but you're never that high on anyone's list of being important, because they always have other people who are more important to them. That makes sense, but it still makes a person feel lonely. Maybe if there were groups that "adopted" single people to be a part of their family in a way? I'm not sure what that would look like, but all I know is that it's hard to feel like a 3rd, 4th, 5th, or 6th wheel all the time.	7/29/2015 5:25 AM
116	Valuing personal relationship with God, both in and out of a relationship context. To have that focus would diminish the taboo of both singleness and relationships that I have experienced. It would also be encouraging to define each other under their identity in Christ and encourage each other by the gifts that God provides, not by their relationship status, as society is used to doing.	7/29/2015 4:44 AM
117	Encouraging the idea that it is ok to be friends with the opposite sex without expecting or looking for a romantic connection. From my experience, guys avoid talking to me at all, because they don't want to lead me on. It would be great to see a culture change that sets the church as not just a mating ground, but a network of likeminded companions	7/28/2015 10:59 PM
118	If there were events for singles and/or courses that teach about doing singleness well in our current society	7/28/2015 10:57 PM
119	It would be nice to just be connected with other single people at church. Although I know the church isn't responsible for matching people together, I think a singles support group or life group would be helpful. There are ministries for marriage support/guidance, and I think a similar ministry for those who are single might help navigate the difficulties this life stage poses.	7/28/2015 10:54 PM
120	I believe that I would feel most included in the vision and ministry of the local church when part of an active young adult group, with people around the ages from 18-28, that meets together for fellowship, Bible Study, and to serve with other members of the church.	7/28/2015 10:52 PM
121	Have a singles group or at least more ministries that would include those who are at different stages in life.	7/28/2015 10:33 PM
122	Please see answer above.	7/28/2015 10:08 PM
123	I just want to become part of the family, I still kinda feel like an outcast because it's such a large church. I would love more opportunities to serve amongst the community, I'm very altruistic by nature and I was told by a Christian friend that he met his wife while volunteering. If I could meet someone who loves Jesus and loves to serve, I'd be content. Online dating is no way to go lol.	7/28/2015 10:05 PM
124	I think including singles would have to start from the pastoral staff and once there are people invited into leadership who are single, I think that would trickle down to a lot of areas. I do think the thing that has been the most sustainable is doing multi-generational work, a lot of singles groups I've seen end up fizzling out our getting really awkward, but they are still important too. I think if churches combined and did join singles events that could help. There is an article someone passed on that probably made me tear up the first time I read it: <a href="http://johnpavlovitz.com/2015/05/14/a-pastors-apology-to-the-single-community/">http://johnpavlovitz.com/2015/05/14/a-pastors-apology-to-the-single-community/</a>	7/28/2015 9:32 PM
125	I feel like single people have a lot to offer churches that married couples don't simply because we don't have as many commitments at home. If a church were to seek out singles specifically for volunteer opportunities or ministry opportunities that require more time (like hanging out with kids within the church, which can take place at all hours), churches could cater to the needs of more of its members.	7/28/2015 5:25 PM
126	Not pitied, but simply included. Not have all sermon points/application points geared towards families and couples	7/28/2015 5:14 PM

127	My church has no singles group for my age bracket and no way to meet people my age other than attending random functions. In a church of 2000, I'm not sure how I will ever meet any single men. I don't feel comfortable just going up and introducing myself to random single men ... It would encourage me for them to recognize that in such a large church there are going to be some older singles and provide a way for us to meet. Obviously I would like this because I would like to get married. But there is also something about having a community of friends who understand something about what your life is like. It doesn't mean I don't want to know anyone who is older or younger than me or who is married. I just would like to have a few people in my life who have some of the similar concerns and experiences as I have. Other than that, I do feel included in women's events and other ministry opportunities.	7/28/2015 3:36 PM
128	Encourage service and inter-generational contact on behalf of singles. It's good to be around singles, but they still need that support and relationship with families and older adults. This can only be accomplished thorough purposeful courage and engagement from both sides with the help of the pastoral ministry and the Holy Spirit. Examples include intergen late nite worship, service in the community by singles, and having meals together, authentic mentoring etc.	7/28/2015 3:11 PM
129	being encouraged to participate in meal fellowships with other singles and/or married couples of all generations; being valued for my gifts/talents that I could offer to the church rather than my marital status; being validated as a young professional rather than as an "extended adolescent" or a "single who missed the marriage memo"	7/28/2015 12:07 PM
130	For the church to recognize the layers of single people. Even the way the the questions are set up in this survey lacks some of the layers. For example, #12 & #16, my actual response is that I prefer a mix of both. But that wasn't an option. My answer for #15 is that I appreciate it if it is done thoughtfully. For #11, I don't think it's a sin, but I choose to abstain anyways. So I am saying that we singles believe lots of different things and have lots of different needs and the Church needs to be aware of that.	7/28/2015 11:05 AM
131	It would be nice to be included in stuff. I think the church should be a place where people are encouraged to develop their gifts. For instance, I've showed interest in planning a church potluck or get together. I've planned lots of baby and wedding showers but they don't seem to think I'm qualified to plan a big event. Mostly an elder has been doing them. Why not pair me with someone who has successfully pulled off a large event to teach me. This is just one example.	7/28/2015 10:12 AM
132	Include me in events with families & kids. I want to hang out with singles, too, but only hanging out with them makes me feel juvenile & separated ---- people make comments like I'm still lumped with the college kids (unintentionally, I know), when I'm 38. I just don't want to be treated as "different" or "weird." I also don't want pity. Sympathy from someone who really understands is fine; prayers are definitely wanted; pity is not. Pity is not helpful to me in viewing my situation gratefully, and it shows that you really do view singleness as a lesser state - a state to be pitied.	7/28/2015 10:01 AM
133	It would be nice if someone from my church would actually ask my opinion. They are doing research on the topic right now and I am the prime age/ target subject and I have attended the church my whole life and I am active in the church. It doesn't feel like my opinion counts.	7/28/2015 8:21 AM
134	Engaging as one body... I often feel as though there is a lot of separation. In addition, sometimes it fees as though being married is the "goal" of life.	7/28/2015 7:30 AM
135	I don't feel excluded. In fact I feel overworked. When you're single they say you have no excuse. They think church is your number one priority when God should be. Just because I'm single doesn't mean I have to be involved with everything the church does. I have a life a life too. I work, I like to travel, take classes, this is the time where I can do it all. Don't even know how they expect me to date again if the only place I go is church. Not that there aren't good guys in church but that only allows you to see one side of a person. Outside is the real test. Singles. Have a lot to add to the ministry just don't overwork us.	7/28/2015 4:32 AM
136	Just having the opportunity to lead and speak truth into people's lives without having to prove I'm capable of leadership by first being a husband and/or father. Many married men/fathers simply do not always make good leaders, and many single men do.	7/28/2015 3:38 AM
137	For the pastoral staff to come speak with us and see who we are and what our singles' ministry does. Maybe have a sermon every once in a while on singlehood. Events that could either be geared towards singles or include singles better.	7/28/2015 1:56 AM
138	Interaction with various age groups and stages of life. This would help me focus less on my stage of life (unmarried) and see myself more as part of a larger community. I am not just "single," I am also a daughter, and a sister, and a friend.	7/28/2015 1:35 AM

139	I feel like there needs to be a general acknowledgement that there are a growing number of singles over 25 and that it is a group that lacks involvement in the church. The lack of involvement is partly a societal thing. Yet for others who want to be involved it is a lack of a safe place to land where they are not pressured or looked down upon because of their singleness. The church tends to focus much of their time, energy, and direction into families and couples.	7/28/2015 12:18 AM
140	Provide more opportunities for mingling with other generations.	7/28/2015 12:01 AM
141	Identifying roles that specifically singles could be valued in	7/27/2015 10:18 PM
142	Trying to tell singles that they should be thankful for singleness because marriage 'has its problems too' is kinda lame. More acknowledgment about how painful it is to walk through life without a companion would be helpful maybe? I mean.. Refusing to acknowledge it as suffering, trying to dress it up as a 'gift' just feels like ignorant pandering. (Too honest? Haha)	7/27/2015 9:20 PM
143	Career focused ministry.	7/27/2015 9:12 PM
144	Having a bible study for young adults who are not married I guess. Having a mentor would be nice too but im not sure if that's related to being single	7/27/2015 8:23 PM
145	Maybe that singleness would be encouraged more, or talked about more in comparison to getting married (The pros, etc.)	7/27/2015 5:38 PM
146	Seeing more singles in church choosing to be single, rather than jumping into a relationship because they are afraid of being alone.	7/27/2015 3:49 PM
147	I think that single people want to be involved and sometimes the church has family only stuff and so it leaves single people feeling like "where or how do I fit in?"	7/27/2015 1:52 PM
148	If there was discussion or understanding of divorce for legitimate reasons....for example domestic violence or adultery.	7/27/2015 12:32 PM
149	Give me options of where I want to be. Some people might want to be in a Singles' Ministry, but I don't really care for it. I think that if people are really looking to get married, they don't want to stay in that group anyway. It feels awkward. I honestly enjoyed the Women's Bible Studies I was in because of the people. I don't mind there being talk about being mothers/wives, but if sometimes maybe we could talk about being a woman with a career (and not always spouse or family context) that would be nice.	7/27/2015 12:17 PM
150	That it was valued to reach out to single adults	7/27/2015 11:23 AM
151	For one, seeing other singles involved in the church and hearing it stressed that marriage is not the only way to feel complete. As a twenty-something single person, I would also find great benefit in being mentored by an older woman who perhaps dealt with some of the same struggles I am dealing with. Not only would that provide encouragement, but it would also help younger, single individuals feel a connection to some of the older, married couples in the church.	7/27/2015 10:53 AM
152	I feel pretty encouraged as a single person at my church	7/27/2015 10:47 AM
153	Live life with singles. Understanding needed boundaries, bring singles into the lives of families. Lean on their gifts--remember you have much to teach them and much to learn from them. Remember that God has declared with His sovereign hand that these sons and daughters would be single in this season and it's for His glory, their joy and the well-being of the entire body. Encourage THEM to remember this. The gifts of singles remain largely untapped as we feel pressure to move towards and displays gifts similar to those married. It reminds me a bit of how culture values and receives well those who are extroverted and has difficulty making space for the flourishing of introverts. I'm not sure what it looks like but to see singles encouraged to flourish and their gifts developed by the church body would be a huge encouragement and bring them into the vision and ministry of the local church.	7/27/2015 10:32 AM
154	I feel like singles need a good balance of community with people in the same spot in life, but also for those who want to get married I think it is good to have people around who are married for a few years whether you are dating someone or 100% single.	7/27/2015 10:26 AM
155	More sermons/teachings on Christian relationships-including what God wants specifically for our relationships.	7/26/2015 10:14 PM
156	I imagine some people would be uncomfortable if they felt that "all" of their peers were married and/or had children. Just having more single people around is encouraging.	7/26/2015 9:53 PM
157	I wish someone in leadership at my church would even attempt to reach out to the 20 somethings. I don't feel like I fit in at my church and like I'm the minority. It's like nobody cares about the college kids	7/26/2015 9:52 PM

158	I feel like too many churches categorize people. Singles groups, divorced, single mom's, we try to minister to every need but sometimes when we fit people into a category, it can become people's identities. Even sometimes always having youth separate I think can be an issue. We need to call people into a higher place instead of boxing them in with who they are and what they can do. Youth don't need to grow up before they can be a prayer warrior for the kingdom, and people don't need to be married before they can have the same impact as anyone else. We also need more singles in leadership. People also just need to work on finding common ground and unity with others instead of differences. I feel like some Christian leaders over-emphasize marriage and family. Don't get me wrong, marriage and family are super important, and I want them both. But sometimes I feel like we put the cart before the horse. When you teach Jesus, identity in Christ, selflessness, love, forgiveness, then the rest follows, and marriage isn't an idol where if I don't have that then I won't be fulfilled. Or God forbid, for those who are married, if something God forbid happened to their spouse, that they wouldn't be able to go on, when God has called them to such a fruitful life in the kingdom.	7/26/2015 6:41 PM
159	Give a sermon to describe what singles can do now to better themselves for their future spouse in order to both serve the Lord. I remember reading a phrase from a book that states how singles muscle "hustle while they wait".	7/26/2015 3:47 PM
160	Singles events are appreciated, especially since a lot of events are geared towards families or family units. Additionally, it does drive me a little nuts when people in churches talk as if because I'm single at the ripe old age of 26, that 'it's ok to be single.' Yes, I get it, being single can lead to the ability to be more active in the church, to have time to dedicate, etc; however, it really comes off condescending when everyone who talks about it *is* married! It's not a consolation prize to be single. If the church wants to lead a singles ministry, other singles would be the best option for leading it.	7/26/2015 3:41 PM
161	dealing with social issues that plague our local community. Being a place that works to make this world a better place.	7/26/2015 3:07 PM
162	Singles groups. A social co-ed group for late college to late 20s mostly for singles.	7/25/2015 11:03 PM
163	The Roman Catholic Church does a much better job of encouraging and embracing those called to singleness, whether for a season or a lifetime. Most Protestant churches are way behind and even in error in this regard	7/25/2015 9:52 PM
164	more open discussion of struggles with sex or loneliness, etc. I am sexually active but i do not share this with any of my christian friends - however, you learn that other people are as well and also keeping it secret. It is very isolating.	7/25/2015 8:26 PM
165	If churches can't offer programming for all the various categories of people (newly married, young adults, married with kids, senior adults, widowed/divorced, etc) then they should have as few specific group as possible so that the congregation can be intermixed. To include me in the vision and ministry would mean to not focus on my singleness (or other's categorizations) but focus on the gifts and talents I (and all others) possess and how we can build the Kingdom.	7/25/2015 5:30 PM
166	Not to be singled out. Why does it matter if I'm single?	7/25/2015 3:53 PM
167	I would be encouraged by people in the church who are married taking the time to get to know me and reach out to me, because I am just like them. This has happened at times for sure, but not consistently. I like hanging out with married people and their kids. I am encouraged when pastors take the time to address single people/ validate us while preaching, instead of only addressing married people. I am encouraged when churches openly address real life issues and current events consistently and talk openly about sexuality. Outside of church, most of my friends are having sex before marriage, so it's important to me that church/ Christian friends are open about encouraging me and others to follow God in our sexuality.	7/25/2015 3:44 PM
168	Recognizing singles for their accomplishments, not just the married people.(Do not ignore singles or pretend they are not there)	7/25/2015 12:26 PM
169	Guidance by married couples towards a healthy romantic lifestyle would be helpful	7/25/2015 12:05 PM
170	I would be encouraged if the church talked about singleness as anything other than some sort of disease that needs to be cured.	7/25/2015 9:02 AM
171	Don't let people make you feel less important or special. If your focus is on your relationship with God first, you'll be just fine. I would feel most included, by not being excluded. Also, giving opportunities to be involved with other singles doing things that families usually can't do.	7/25/2015 3:17 AM
172	Have a place for me where I don't feel pressured from people to get married/ date. Have some group where single people can meet with other singles to talk about life as a single.	7/24/2015 10:54 PM
173	How as a single guy we still have our identity in Christ, not if we have a gf or not or how many girls we can get to be interested in U.S.	7/24/2015 9:38 PM

174	I would feel most included by getting to know the families and other couples at the church, and not be expected to just hang out with the other single and more transitional (college) people. (On the other hand, sometimes I do this too much and don't end up getting to know my own peers. It's a tricky balance!)	7/24/2015 4:36 PM
175	More thorough discussions about singleness rather than mere after-thought comments. There's a whole chapter in the Bible in which Paul praises the value of singleness as the most effective way to glorify God. And Jesus, the central figure in all of Christianity, was single! I've never heard a church discuss that! Also, for churches that are really focused on community development and service especially in poor, urban contexts, it would be nice to hear a greater discussion of how single women can most effectively do ministry (particularly if they want to relocate to a poor neighborhood) while keeping a reasonable measure of safety. (In general, I think our society places too high a value on safety, but I also don't think God wants us to be foolish.)	7/24/2015 3:22 PM
176	Being single, for the time being, has allowed for me to focus on ministry and using my past knowledge and experiences to talk with and guide those around me, especially in youth ministry.	7/24/2015 3:16 PM
177	I think that if the pastor would briefly discuss the value of being single to the congregation, the congregation would appreciate a single person and encourage the single person to follow Gods path. In other words. Before I had my daughter I felt closest to God, through the reading of the Bible and other spiritual books. In several of those books, they encouraged the readers to develop in Gods wisdom prior to a relationship. Hence the strength of the individual will exceed the need of acceptance of the opposite sex or their social environment. I felt strength, I felt like a man. Unfortunately the only good thing that came out of that relationship was our 4 year old daughter.	7/24/2015 2:39 PM
178	Accept that singleness can be a good thing. Even Paul said that to be single can allow a person to serve God with more focus. It's not a "second-rate" way of life.	7/24/2015 1:53 PM
179	People understanding that my calling and value to the Lord are in no way related to my relationships with anyone other than God.	7/24/2015 12:33 PM
180	A greater focus on the family of God verses the individual family units.	7/24/2015 12:03 PM
181	Just ask me! I feel that I don't know the ministry opportunities or hear about them after the fact. If I am unable or unavailable to do something that's one thing, but at least give me the opportunity.	7/24/2015 11:50 AM
182	I do not know about the "church" as a whole... But I am most encouraged by friends who talk to me. I have friend who completely disagree about my life choices and views on homosexuality. But I go and talk to them, because they are actually willing to be like, "ok, what is happening with your life (and boyfriend...)" rather than just thinking I am freaky. It helps to process with Christians, particularly being from a Christian background, and someone who does not want to completely abandon my faith.	7/24/2015 9:26 AM
183	My church right now has two pastors that are single. It's so encouraging to see a single person as an example in that role! We also have an young adult ministry (18-29) every Sunday night that people from all churches in the area go to. Makes being single seem less weird when everyone around you is doing it too!! Also, how can the church encourage singles to pursue friendship with the opposite sex first and foremost? Finding a girl/boyfriend can be the priority a lot.	7/24/2015 6:20 AM
184	Include them within the entire body of Christ. He who walks with the wise becomes wise. It was a blessing being surrounded by Godly couples during my time in college. Seeing the good and the bad gave me a realistic taste of what marriage is. It is difficult for me to find a Biblical basis for isolating singles within a church body. I find it to be more of a modern phenomenon of evangelicalism rather than something rooted in discipleship	7/24/2015 5:32 AM
185	The inclusive and not feeling devalued ir incomplete because I am not yet married.	7/24/2015 1:02 AM
186	It they had events or a group for single people in my age rance that was not geared towards dating or match making.	7/24/2015 12:59 AM
187	Just to be part of ministry.	7/23/2015 11:56 PM
188	Well... being a preacher, allowing Gods direction encourages me far as the vision. I'm part of the promise.	7/23/2015 11:30 PM
189	My dedication to Christ as a husband.	7/23/2015 11:28 PM
190	Including me just as married people are included in the family. Single people who don't have to spend time caring for a spouse or children have more time to give to other kingdom ministries. Also making sure there are discipleship opportunities not just for married women but also for single women.	7/23/2015 11:18 PM
191	If there is intentionality in including singles in the community building process.	7/23/2015 11:06 PM

192	I have always gotten the message, subtly, or not so subtly, that I somehow deserved what happened to me, that I wasn't really good enough to be loved. Whenever people find out that I am divorced, I feel that I have to defend myself. The assumption seems to be that if you are divorced, you must not be right with God, or at least not until you confess what you have done wrong to deserve it. I love the Lord and want to serve Him, but I feel that many Christians see me as disqualified. My circumstances have led me to become a special education teacher, and I am serving the Lord in public school. I am also able to sing in the choir at church, a ministry where I can serve but be anonymous. This is enough, but I wish that I felt accepted for who I am.	7/23/2015 10:33 PM
193	I am THANKFUL that at Grace, I feel very much included in the vision and ministry of the local church...it has been my observation that anyone who loves God and wants to serve has a place there, and I very much appreciate that. I feel valued by both men and women, leadership and those not actively involved in leadership. I have visited multiple other churches (in searching to see if I was going to find a different church home), and was quite surprised at how marginalized I was, even as a visitor, with men speaking to me, but no women at all, with the exception of the pastor's wife. While there are other reasons why I ended up staying at Grace, having a place of value and service, without feeling it as an enormous burden has certainly been a part of my staying there.	7/23/2015 9:57 PM
194	If there was a singles group that did well planned and thought out events. Even if it partnered with other groups for these events, I think just having a group with people I could relate to would be encouraging. I have yet to find a singles group of people my age that did genuine ministry together. Usually I just find social clubs at these big churches.	7/23/2015 9:33 PM
195	It would be nice to hear the stories of other singles, especially older singles. Some of them may be in similar situations (never married or had kids) but others may be in other situations in which they ended up single due to life circumstances. I think I could resonate with all of those stories. I think it would help me feel less alone to know that others were/are in the same situation and have found joy and fulfillment despite the absence of marriage and/or children.	7/23/2015 8:44 PM
196	Just to be made welcome and invited to events and included. I Have attended events by myself before and everyone talks amongst friends so I'm left sitting along not wanting to intrude on others conversations etc.	7/23/2015 8:03 PM
197	Find a. Need and fill it. Those of. That want kids fill that hole with the kids in the church	7/23/2015 7:44 PM
198	By being asked "what is God doing in your life right now?" rather than "what are you going to do with your life?" I have always thought that doing a mentoring program for young adults partnered with middle age to older adults would be a great benefit.	7/23/2015 6:15 PM
199	I would feel included if the church said that we are needed.	7/23/2015 6:09 PM
200	To be more welcomed and valued by younger people. I personally enjoy younger adults, but practically without such relationships, an older person can feel more and more alone, especially those without families.	7/23/2015 4:52 PM
201	Seeing singles in significant leadership positions. When I don't see singles leading, it can confirm the suspicion that the church sees singles as deficient. It conveys the impression that singles are not mature enough to be married, so how can we let them lead anything?	7/23/2015 4:31 PM
202	An honest, community conference about dating and relationships from within my church. I don't want to go somewhere else, I trust my church and feel safe with those people and leaders. I want them to share with me what a healthy relationship looks like from friendship to dating to marriage. I want to know how your relationship with God looks like now and when you were single and when you were thinking about dating and when you were struggling and when you were at your strongest point. I want to know whether you can maintain friendships with the opposite sex and what that looks like.	7/23/2015 4:29 PM
203	If messages, classes, ministry opportunities were equally distributed between married & single individuals. There is definitely a need for a more even playing field. The focus is typically on marriages, "whole" families etc when really there is a plethora of categories of people in the church beyond marriage.	7/23/2015 4:16 PM
204	Highlighting the bad things about marriage (because we know it's not "all" good. Couples/older people convey (usually not explicitly) that you don't understand love/romantic relationships because you aren't currently or have never been married.	7/23/2015 4:02 PM
205	Having groups for adult singles 25-40 and more of a community atmosphere where everyone is welcoming. Less formal activities too - miniature golf, bowling, bible studies, etc.	7/23/2015 3:42 PM
206	Just to be accepted. That's a big part of not just existing. To have someone to talk to of the opposite sex and not have the stigma of that person being only there in a conversation because they think you want to be intimate with them.	7/23/2015 3:34 PM



207	I think encouragement that singleness is ok, and that there is nothing wrong with you if you are still single, whether by choice or life circumstance. I think just the encouragement that singleness is a viable life path.	7/23/2015 3:33 PM
208	i would be encourage to not be singled out (no pun intended).	7/23/2015 3:26 PM
209	Small groups with people my own age is extremely helpful but I'm not against mixed groups. I believe there is a lot a wisdom one can gain from older couples.	7/23/2015 2:12 PM
210	The married men of the church feel like they remember what it was like to be single, but I assure you they do not. As a divorced man in my 30's, struggling to do the right thing all the time, the world is a totally different place now than it was as I was dating as a teen and dating before I married my wife.	7/23/2015 12:19 PM
211	Not necessary.	7/23/2015 12:09 PM
212	Perhaps some activities geared towards singles. And some idea of how this dating thing is supposed to go as a Christian.	7/23/2015 11:32 AM
213	Don't know. Perhaps showing singles the unique opportunities they have that are married/dating folks are not afforded - speaking out more vocally against certain institutions, etc.	7/23/2015 11:16 AM

### Q21 (Optional) Additional Comments:

Answered: 107 Skipped: 397

#	Responses	Date
1	I suggest the church rethink their idol worship of marriage and family. It is not biblical. And it's the reason we have same sex "marriage" today.	8/16/2015 10:43 PM
2	Thank you for doing this.	8/11/2015 10:02 PM
3	Singles' ministry typically draws a lot of women but very few men - like most things at church unless there's something geared towards married couples.	8/11/2015 4:13 PM
4	My feelings have changed as I've gotten older. Singleness used to bother me more than it does now, possibly because there are now widows about my age--not just young couples with children. I am also respected and allowed to participated in leadership areas which were not considered a decade or two ago.	8/11/2015 3:48 PM
5	Cool survey	8/11/2015 2:22 PM
6	I love opportunities to be involved in multi-generational groups at church. It's really encouraging to get to know and do life with people who have more life experiences. It's also great to see people my parents age walking with the Lord - especially when I haven't seen that modeled. However, in the past few years I've been new to town and don't have friends. So it's been a very real need to have opportunities to get to know other singles or people my age to become friends with. It's great to have good relationships with people a little older but sometimes you just need to meet friends who you can go to a movie with or just hang out with.	8/8/2015 6:25 PM
7	Younger members who think your life has been one of always walking with the Lord and never suffering for bad decisions.	8/7/2015 9:49 PM
8	With regard to questions 15 - 19, my church really doesn't delve much into the subjects of singleness & dating, so those questions were a little difficult to answer... particularly 17, I've heard other pastors offer that as a viable option, so I chose yes to indicate that it has been taught, I believe my church's leadership would agree with the statement.	8/6/2015 10:28 PM
9	#9 question is not clear. Do you mean I have any both gender friends? Then Yes. If not, NO	8/6/2015 8:36 AM
10	Single is an awkward stage if life sometimrs, it's nice to know people are trying to make us feel loved and included.	8/6/2015 8:21 AM
11	I dont think churches should harp on singleness and i think we should be focusing more on the will of God for our lives and let him take us where he will lead us	8/6/2015 2:09 AM
12	The way singles are treated in the church is changing, but it needs to be addressed that singleness is not a curse, or something that has to always be a struggle. I personally love being single (not necessarily for selfish reasons), because of the type of ministry I can be called to as a single person. I don't like being in my own category, as we are all brothers and sisters in Christ.	8/5/2015 11:29 PM
13	I appreciate the church seeking to improve this area of ministry, thank you. I think the hardest part is finding godly young singles who can encourage, challenge and disciple one another. It's hard to have a successful ministry without a consistent group to minister to. It's a catch 22	8/5/2015 11:02 PM
14	I don't think any church in Lansing is reaching out to any singles 18-55. Check out the census data for greater lansing then ask yourself why aren't churches interested...	8/5/2015 10:20 PM
15	For me, I think there NEEDS to be a focus on upper 20's early 30's who aren't married. Not necessarily a 'singles' group - which would, in my opinion by mostly late 30's and above, but that awkward age of "most people this age are married and starting families and I am not" My church has a 20Somethings - but is mostly attended by younger 20's and once people get married at 24-26ish, they drop out, which leaves a few random stragglers who didn't get married and have yet to. But then the 'singles' group is all 35 and above. What about the single people between 27-34?? In my church I think there are a lot of us, but no one knows each other because there is no place to do so.	8/5/2015 9:36 PM
16	On question 12, it would be nice if there was a mix. It's nice to have some events with just singles but also be involved with others in the church too.	8/5/2015 9:06 PM

17	I'm from the south where getting married right out of college is the norm and if you aren't married right out of college people do not know how to respond. Christians need to understand that marriage isn't the goal. Jesus is. And if I'll look most like Jesus being single then that's what I want. I want to be married some day but if not then God is still good and I still have the same value as a single female than a married female.	8/5/2015 8:13 PM
18	I really wish that I COULD find someone through church that I find appealing, because I love my church, but so far it hasn't been the case. And it saddens me that most likely the person I would be most compatible with over all, I probably would never meet there...but we'll see what happens in the long run, I guess.	8/5/2015 8:09 PM
19	Everything at my church (2000+ people) is for childrn, youth, or couples/families. Nothing for singles. I'm currently looking for a different place of worship because I feel so excluded.	8/5/2015 8:02 PM
20	I grew up in and still attend a small country church, so my ideas and thoughts are pretty biased based on the fact that the greatest population of people in the church are children and married couples. It's pretty discouraging actually. Anyway, my experiences may not reflect those of the rest of the survey population.	8/5/2015 7:42 PM
21	about the matchmaking: it depends. It helps if someone asks for my permission and if they really know me well or not. If its a first conversation, you probably don't know me well enough.	8/5/2015 6:34 PM
22	Sometimes from up front a pastor might give a gospel metaphor based on a story about their wife or children and frame it by saying "if you have a wife/kids you'll know what I'm talking about." I understand why they go there - the story will relate to the large majority of the congregation. Additionally, many pastors share from their life experiences and how God is working in their lives that week, and having a family is their reality. Where the problem comes in is not in the stories themselves - I can laugh at and emphasize with stories about kids even though I don't have any - but in the implication that until you have these things in your life, you have a muted understanding of the gospel. I've heard some people say they didn't really understand God until they became parents, and I certainly believe that God used their experience to draw them closer to him. But he can use different life experiences to teach singles the same lessons. Or he teaches different lessons, lessons that perhaps a married couple wouldn't learn. The danger comes when it is subtly communicated that until you have CERTAIN life experiences, you can't reach a certain level of intimacy with God.	8/5/2015 5:50 PM
23	Thanks for making a survey about this	8/5/2015 4:13 PM
24	I answered the questions about my current church, but I do not feel my current church is the "norm" with attitudes/ actions toward singles in the church.	8/5/2015 4:06 PM
25	Thanks.	8/5/2015 3:32 PM
26	A friend and I recently discussed what it was like dating in the church. Though I would hardly say I've done a ton of dating in my church (one guy, one time), there has always been a pressure in church circles. Not necessarily *to* date, though I would say certain churches and ministries have an inclination to strongly encourage marriage above singleness, but rather that a date meant something serious. Anything casual was off the table. If you were seeing each other, then you had to be working towards something. It makes just getting to know someone really hard and I think I've ended up losing out on great relationships with guys because I didn't want them to get the wrong idea or because I already "ruled them out" as a prospective husband.	8/5/2015 3:30 PM
27	For question #12, I selected "only singles present" just because of the wording. It made it seem like I'd be the only single in a couples environment. But in reality, I'd like to see less segregation in the church. I think singles ministries are important. And sometimes it makes sense to organize people by life stage. However, there should be plenty of opportunities to bring church members together on common interests.	8/5/2015 3:27 PM
28	I'm pleased to say I am no longer sexually active. God, in His love for me, has allowed me to meet a young lady, in my church, who is different from anyone I've met. She has accepted me and I her. We have an amazing connection that could only be from God. I have never dated the "right" way but this is incredible. I believe she is the one.	8/5/2015 2:06 PM
29	Some of these questions are difficult to answer. For example, I like having community with singles, but it is nice to have married couples included as well. Also, church is a good place to find dates, but it isn't always a productive place to find dates. Often it is the same people and if that is a small group of people, well you're kind of stuck.	8/5/2015 12:12 AM
30	"Where's your girlfriend at, huh?" "You'd better hustle up and get one while they're still hot, or else they'll all be off limits to you!" {--{ That's the kind of grief I have been getting since my adolescent life, and you have no clue just how devastating the impact is. For me, the right woman to be matched up with would be just like a college education that'll get me a big promotion and a better job/brighter future. Both of them would be life defining moments for me. That is all for now.	8/4/2015 11:44 PM

31	I have had several friends that no longer attend church because of years of feeling like they don't matter. I have been there too... still don't feel like anyone would even care if all the single/young adults left the church until they start missing the next generation of families. We are the forgotten group.	8/4/2015 11:24 PM
32	My church has formally acknowledged singleness as a calling, but individuals still treat me like I'm an incomplete person. And my married friends seem so excited to hear about my (failed) first dates, while their eyes glaze over when I share about my trip abroad or recent career change. It's hurtful to feel like I'm less interesting without a man when I know it's not true.	8/4/2015 9:10 PM
33	There's a market of dating guides for guys who are wired like I am - from secular pick up artists with the stated goal of helping one fornicate. That's not what I'm after. I wish the church saw guys like me and helped us with this stuff instead. Not all of us get divine revelation as to who to date, though that's what some pastors push because they got that in seminary or on a foreign mission. I need other legitimate ways of acquiring a wife that are honorable.	8/4/2015 9:06 PM
34	Great topic for a book! Can't wait to read it! God bless your writing!	8/4/2015 11:53 AM
35	Thanks so much for taking the time to listen to these opinions! I am excited for what God will do in and through this. Praying!!	8/2/2015 8:40 PM
36	I think mid to late 20s is a hard time of life for several reasons. It feels like the first time that you and your friends aren't all basically at the same point in life. In college, most of my friends didn't know exactly what they wanted to do or where they wanted to live. Now some people have jobs and some are still in school. Some people have spouses and kids and others don't. It can be hard to find that level where we can all still relate.	7/31/2015 12:28 PM
37	Thank you!	7/31/2015 9:39 AM
38	I thought for a long time about how to respond to question 14: Do you see church as a good place to find dates? In theory, the church should be THE #1 place for a single Christian to find dates. But, in my experience as a 24 year old, black, single, Christian woman with a good career going (I'm a middle school teacher), the odds seem to be ever against me and those in my population for finding a date! So, in theory, yes. In reality, in my experience at least, no.	7/31/2015 9:34 AM
39	Thanks for doing this survey!	7/30/2015 9:57 PM
40	Question 15. NEITHER OPTION: This totally depends on the context, the person doing the matchmaking, and the guy they're setting me up with. PLEASE DO NOT COUNT MY SELECTED RESPONSE IN YOUR DATA (I had to pick one to submit this survey). Question 16. NEITHER OPTION: Like anyone, sometimes I enjoy the company of my peers, sometimes I want a more intergenerational experience. Singleness has nothing to do with this preference. PLEASE DO NOT COUNT MY SELECTED RESPONSE IN YOUR DATA (I had to pick one to submit this survey). Final thoughts: Nothing about this survey is measuring the effectiveness of an existing ministry. Measurement implies quantitative data that evaluates change over time. This survey is collecting information about singles' previous experiences and preferences for church socialization. Please know that I am giving you such frank feedback because I believe that this is an important and misunderstood issue in the church. I appreciate that you are looking into it. Maybe next time have a handful of single people give feedback on the survey first.	7/30/2015 5:27 PM
41	Be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord. 1 Corinthians 15:58	7/30/2015 3:47 PM
42	I realize I'm breaking anonymity, but I wrote a free e-book on finding joy and contentment as a single (and fighting porn, which I believe is one of the causes for lower levels of marriage): <a href="http://www.covenanteyes.com/singles-guide/">http://www.covenanteyes.com/singles-guide/</a>	7/30/2015 1:46 PM
43	I don't want to be stereotyped or labeled. Or have a ministry that says you are single. There isn't one for you are married.	7/30/2015 12:46 PM
44	Youthful singleness is different from mature singleness. With youth comes hope and dreams, and a lifetime ahead of you to be excited about the future when thinking of a special love in your life. Age changes a lot, especially in this society of beauty and materialistic views. How do those, like me, learn how to live above the fray and find peace, joy, and contentment in living for Christ and building on our eternal future?	7/29/2015 8:02 PM
45	Please, Please Please, I beg you, be one of the churches that will not compromise the Gospel and teachings of our Lord Jesus Christ in order to be popular!	7/29/2015 7:20 PM
46	Re question 17: My church has neither advocated nor discouraged singleness.	7/29/2015 7:09 PM
47	I like blending ministry groups, but the occasional group or outing for singles is very nice. Church match-making, sign me up! :-)	7/29/2015 5:57 PM

48	Question 12 was problematic for me. It would be great to have the option to meet other singles at church but I also like being included with everyone else. For questions 13, 17, and 18 My church ignores things that apply to me as a single and focuses on married people problems and raising kids. There's an implied pressure to conform, marry, and start having tons of babies but, most of the time, I just feel ignored. When they do talk about singles it's as if it's a disease that they hope I'll one day be cured of.	7/29/2015 5:27 PM
49	None	7/29/2015 8:17 AM
50	no.	7/29/2015 7:01 AM
51	In regards to question #14: I don't think the church is a good place to be pursuing a date. My purpose in going to church is to be in fellowship with other Christians and to dig deeper into the Bible and my faith. My purpose is not to look around at all the eligible singles and try to find a new date every Sunday. In regards to questions #17 and #18: As I said before, I my church only does a couple things. But they aren't well advertised and I have never been encouraged to join in. There have been a couple sermons on how to keep from immorality as a single. but never being encouraged as a single.	7/29/2015 6:31 AM
52	Thank you for thinking about singles. Most groups don't seem to think about people who are single into their 30s very well.	7/29/2015 5:25 AM
53	My story of finding the Lord in my mid twenties is something I love to share	7/28/2015 10:05 PM
54	I did want to add that I do appreciate being a part of groups with just singles - since we all get that stage of life, but also appreciate being around families - it helps with contentment to realize the good and the difficult pieces of being in a different stage of life. Thanks so much for doing this survey - this alone shows your heart and desire to serve singles and is so appreciated!	7/28/2015 9:32 PM
55	I think it's important to have both time with those who are in the "same stage of life" (ie single & similar age) and time with those outside of that stage of life. It's important to be impacted by those in the church community as a whole, and to impact all of those around you.	7/28/2015 3:42 PM
56	Questions 12-16 are difficult to answer. I think you need more options than just yes or no. I enjoy having the option of having a singles group to hang out with but that doesn't mean I never want to talk to or get together with older/younger/married people. It's just that there are so many options for that available and so few for singles. Especially older singles. Many churches have groups for singles up to 35. I am 36. I was told I was welcome to attend, which was kind, but the event seems structured more like a youth rally than something for adults (which I am). I don't want to be regarded as a teenager just because I'm single. :) Regarding question 13, I don't feel like people in my church actively try to make me feel like an outcast. However, in subtle ways it does happen (eg, husbands who won't talk to me, not being chosen as a friend because I'm different, etc.). But I'm not sure it's something the church leadership can control other than encouraging the church to value and include single people in their lives. Regarding question 14, I haven't really had a lot of dates as a result of church attendance. So I can't really respond "yes." On the other hand, I don't see that I have many other options either for meeting godly Christians. So I can't really respond "no." :) I was trying to answer these questions honestly, but lest it sound like I'm a loner with no friends, I want to say that I really do have a good community of friends (both single and married). I just don't have them at my current church at the moment--they are from previous churches I have attended. At the particular church I am attending now, it has proved difficult to build similar community. But I am blessed with friendships and hope I don't come across as complaining. :)	7/28/2015 3:36 PM
57	Question #14 is confusing. I consider the body of Christ to be the church over the building, but I sense that is what the questions is really asking about. Therefore, the building does nothing. Only genuine relationship and caring can assist with that answer. And it has to start with leadership holding older adults for not reaching out to singles. Yes singles should be held accountable too, but ultimately families have the greater power and responsibility in creating an inter gen environment. By all means, invite single leaders to discuss theses matters further at leadership meetings to take serious input and to have it in prayer.	7/28/2015 3:11 PM
58	Thank you for doing this!	7/28/2015 11:05 AM
59	I also feel like I'm mostly noticed when I'm performing, whereas married women, and single with kids are noticed because they have kids (which I guess is also a performance based) But there's been times when I'm super involved in my neighborhood and I'm bringing lots of people to church - mostly kids. They call it missional living. But there are times when I get a little burned out from living missionally. When you live missionally as a single you have to be very intentional about surrounding yourself with healthy people. I don't have any family here and I live alone so that can be hard. So when I'm not bringing people to church and 'doing ministry' I'm not noticed.	7/28/2015 10:12 AM

60	<p>People make the dumbest comments to singles - it's one thing to be friends with someone, and know they want to get married, and then ask them if they'd be willing to meet someone they know; saying things like "We've just got to get you matched up with someone!" or "Why hasn't someone just snatched you up?" or "There's someone out there for you" (Really? How do you know?!) --- those kind of comments are not helpful and simply make you feel singled out (pun intended). The church needs to learn to talk to single people the way they'd talk to anyone else. Singleness is hard, but it's also good, in many ways. I want to be treated like everyone else, not like "SINGLE" is the biggest thing written on my forehead.</p>	7/28/2015 10:01 AM
61	<p>Thanks for actually asking singles some questions.</p>	7/28/2015 8:21 AM
62	<p>Being single does not mean you are less than. Nor does it mean you haven't lived.</p>	7/28/2015 4:32 AM
63	<p>n/a</p>	7/28/2015 1:56 AM
64	<p>I think it's good for a church to have a group for singles, but I don't think it should be a Sunday morning thing. Sunday morning adult (post high school) sunday school classes should be gatherings that include all stages of life. I've gone to a church that had an exclusive singles group on Sunday mornings, and I didn't like that, because I never got to see my friends after they got married, or if they were still in high school or college, and hadn't "graduated" into the singles group yet. It felt very segregated and disconnected. I ended up dating a guy from a different church, with a system that is more inclusive, and I think it works much better.</p>	7/28/2015 1:35 AM
65	<p>Regarding question 12: I love hanging out with people my age who have gotten married and have kids, but I need to spend time with people at a similar life stage. So it's not that it needs to be one or the other. There needs to be balance. Also, ideally the church is a great place to find a date considering similar values, but it's not my goal or the reason I attend on Sundays.</p>	7/27/2015 11:58 PM
66	<p>As a man I feel very comfortable with being single, however I feel that women are much more pressured to get married, especially in the church. Which I think is ironic because men are supposed to be the ones to initiate/lead a relationship. I think men in the church should be more encouraged than they are to date, as well as offer more corporate preparation for singles entering relationships. However, I see nothing necessarily wrong with being single forever.</p>	7/27/2015 11:37 PM
67	<p>Question 14 &amp; 15 are difficult. I do not find the church to be a good place to find a date, because that is not where my heart should be when I walk into a sermon. However, I do respect and appreciate the opinions of leaders above me and prayerfully consider their opinions about any part of my future.</p>	7/27/2015 11:20 PM
68	<p>Honestly... I don't know where I fit or where I would want to fit.. Trying to pick between 'preferring to be with married couples/families' or 'preferring to be with only singles' was impossible for me. I picked one but I couldn't really decide. I have shared experience as a single person and want to get to know other singles... But I also typically prefer the maturity level of the married folks ya know? So... I fit no where :-/ if I only hang with married folks how will I meet anyone? If I only hang with young singles, how will I learn and grow from those further along in life?</p>	7/27/2015 9:20 PM
69	<p>Question 11 is not really a good question. What about the people who have made mistakes and realized that they have ( continuing to make the mistake or not) but need help not doing it again. I mean I have had sex and knew it was wrong, but will always struggle with purity before marriage. The statistic for people that have looked at, or look at porn in the church is almost identical to people outside of the church. That Is A challenge/struggle that the church sometimes does not address, or take into consideration.</p>	7/27/2015 9:12 PM
70	<p>I dont think church is a bad place to find a date but I would feel uncomfortable going to church knowing people were specifically looking to set me up/see if id be a good date. I like going to church as a break from that honestly. Its nice to go to church and take a friendly dude at face value instead of knowing they're trying to flirt with you.</p>	7/27/2015 8:23 PM
71	<p>Love me as I am. You can pray for me to find a mate, and that's fine and even appreciated...but you don't need to tell me that. It makes me feel like I am missing something. Even if I want to be married (which I do), I don't need to be reminded of what I don't have. I experience it on a daily basis, and I try to be okay with where I am in life-- wherever that is. I don't want unsolicited advice about "getting out there" or "it will happen when you're not looking for it." If there were a proven way to find "the one", I would have done that a long time ago. If you were a little older when you got married, don't forget what it was like to be in my position. If you were very young, please don't try to tell me what I should do. Also, don't tell me that God has someone for me when you really don't know that.</p>	7/27/2015 12:17 PM
72	<p>Yes I believe that sex before marriage is a sin but I'm not opposed to waiting for until marriage to experimenting with sexual relationships again</p>	7/27/2015 11:51 AM
73	<p>Thank you for putting this together! It's an encouragement to know there are others thinking through these things.</p>	7/27/2015 10:32 AM

74	I was engaged but my fiance broke up with me after cheating on me. She knew I deserved better, wanted to stop causing me pain, and wanted to get her life in order. Still dealing with the wounds.	7/26/2015 9:49 PM
75	Thanks for doing this survey, God bless you : )	7/26/2015 6:41 PM
76	Question #11 - an additional bubble should have been included with the statement, "Yes, I think it's a sin, but I used to be sexually active. Now I am recommitting myself to purity and desire to wait for marriage to have sex"	7/26/2015 3:47 PM
77	It seems to me that while church should be a good place to find someone who has the same values, it is not. More often, there are not so many single guys my generation at church. Younger family groups or even those already in committed/headed towards marriage relationships are more often found at church in my experience.	7/26/2015 3:41 PM
78	Im not catholic but pope Francis is doing a hell of a job.	7/26/2015 3:07 PM
79	I'm currently not regularly attending a church because of caregiving responsibilities for my elderly parent	7/25/2015 9:52 PM
80	I am undecided about labeling sex before marriage as a sin. I am single, celibate and will most likely wait until marriage to have sex because of my personal experiences and beliefs. I believe it is better for my spirit to not connect to someone sexually without a spiritual commitment to each other. The labeling of 'sin', right and wrong, etc. feels complex and laden with political messages- not spiritual ones. It was a challenge to answer some of the questions! I wish you luck with your project!	7/25/2015 9:14 PM
81	Of course there are things that could improve, but overall Crossroads has made me feel valued as a single person.	7/25/2015 3:44 PM
82	I volunteer once a week putting info into a computer program. I am in a w/c. Have never been recognized when pastor recognizing others by name. He thanks me when he sees me there on the day. Others are surprised to learn I volunteer. I am too old and disabled to consider a dating service and marriage now.	7/25/2015 12:26 PM
83	n/a	7/25/2015 12:05 PM
84	Jesus was single and I'd say he was pretty successful.	7/25/2015 3:17 AM
85	It can be easy other people to unintentionally make us feel like we are failing since we are not married.	7/24/2015 10:54 PM
86	I always believed in being equally yoked and wanting a good, Christian woman with great virtues and a loving heart, but I realize it's a myth... too many Christian women I knew from the past where too judgmental and not always so kind and understanding, even regarding little things. I'd rather find a woman who doesn't act so righteous and can look up to me, the man as her leader and protector and hopefully influence her someday for Christ. Christian woman today expect to lead the man and that's kinda what's wrong with Chtistian singles today!	7/24/2015 10:52 PM
87	I really appreciate you writing on this topic!!!	7/24/2015 4:36 PM
88	Some of these questions were difficult to answer with a straight yes or no. For instance, #13 - I have in the past felt this way, but a rather long process of working it through and a strong personality have helped me a lot. 20 years ago, answers would have been different.	7/24/2015 1:53 PM
89	I feel like an outsider most of the time, which I have accepted. It doesn't bother me like it used to, For the most part I have chosen singleness.	7/24/2015 11:50 AM
90	As a side note, this is not a "gay" only issue. I have a very close friend who is single, a little older than me, and has never been in a sexual relationship with anyone (not even kissed or anything). It currently identifies as an "asexual..." because he really doesn't desire to have sex (and doesn't believe that he ever really has...) The psychologists and sexologists are currently debating the validity of such this sexual taxonomy. But the interesting thing from his story that corresponds to mine, is he said that when he has talked to people in the church about these issues, they told him he was "irreverent" because women are a gift from God and should therefore be desired. I am not going to deny the "gifting" part. But the strange thing is the way the church feels that a guy must want, and ultimately marry, a woman.	7/24/2015 9:26 AM
91	I'm currently reading The Meaning of Marriage by Tim Keller and it has made me realize: all these years I have said I want to be married without truly even knowing what God designed marriage for. The content of that book has been helpful to learn not just to prepare for marriage but also to correct my views as a single person of what the world wants marriage to be (all about me!) so I feel informed of how to pick a spouse now.... Rather than being already married with all these misconceptions!	7/24/2015 6:20 AM
92	Singleness is a gift, and marriage is a gift. God seems to give us a choice which to pursue. (Paul said somewhere, if a girl wants to marry, let her; if she doesn't, that's ok too!) I think sometimes this aspect of marriage gets skipped over.	7/23/2015 11:18 PM

93	I answered no to #15 but I'm not really sure how I feel about it. I wasn't sure about #17 either. Right now I'm in a class of adults mostly older than I am because I feel most comfortable there.	7/23/2015 10:33 PM
94	I sent these to you, Noah, in my private message response, but I'll copy them here, as well. :) Edit Options: 14: Yes and No are too limiting here. Should the church be a good place to find a like-minded spouse? Yes! HAS it been a productive place for me to find a like-minded spouse? No. :) 15: Yes and No are also too limiting here. I *do* appreciate church people who know me very well keeping an eye out for an introduction to potential husband material. Having said that, I've had church people that should know better (have known me since I was a child) set me up on a date with a guy that wasn't even saved ("But he might be! He's very nice! He's a teacher!). I wish I was kidding. I also am not a fan of blind dates AT. ALL. I would much prefer a group introduction where we can know one another as people for awhile, before jumping straight to DATE! So while I'm answering Yes on both 14 and 15, it's not a straight-forward yes, and that should be clarified. 16: This is problematic as a Yes/No question, also, as our church leadership has not gone out of their way to specifically *advocate* singleness as a valid/worthy option in life, but they have NEVER invalidated it, nor has it ever been disparaged, and in private conversation, I've never had anything but support in the goal of being Christ-like, whether married or single. I think our church could do a little bit better of recognizing the responsibility of all people to be like Christ, whether married or single from the pulpit (acknowledging that both states are valid and are called to the same Christ-like-ness), but, as mentioned, there has never been a negation of singles either publicly or personally, and I am very thankful for that.	7/23/2015 9:57 PM
95	I don't know how to feel about pre-marital sex as a sin, but I do think abstaining from sex until marriage has many benefits.	7/23/2015 9:57 PM
96	I've struggled to find a group of singles (age doesn't matter) that share the same ministry goals and basic views. I loved Ada Bibles singles group because of their passion for helping the community. And having a sermon where we address the hard hitting questions about sexuality, race, and political agendas and then breaking into small groups so you could talk about it and get more personal with other singles. Age really doesn't matter. A lot of people I've met my age are really immature and I don't vibe well with them.	7/23/2015 9:33 PM
97	I am not always in mourning for the absence of marriage or family. God has blessed me tremendously in other ways and in some ways that would not be possible if I was married or parenting. The loneliness or longing that sometimes comes over me is rarely triggered by anyone within the church. It's most often caused by comparing my life where it is with where I had expected or hoped to be. In fact, the people within my church are very encouraging and promote my value. They often will help me out of the lonely times by reminding me of my worth and purpose in Christ and the joy that comes in serving and following Him.	7/23/2015 8:44 PM
98	So many people are married in the church.	7/23/2015 6:17 PM
99	I think there should have been a no preference option for questions 12 and 17.	7/23/2015 6:09 PM
100	I've been involved in singles ministry, but as a resource. Personally, they never interested me much. Though I expected to marry and have a houseful of kids, I've been content being single and never felt as desperate as many who were part of singles groups.	7/23/2015 4:52 PM
101	This survey is very black and white. Most of these questions are too complicated to be answered with just a yes or no.	7/23/2015 4:31 PM
102	I believe sex before marriage is a sin, but when I was in a relationship I didn't like that. I wouldn't let "it's a sin" be my excuse for not having sex. I still never did anything that could get me pregnant, but looking back I would say I did plenty of things that can qualify as sex.	7/23/2015 4:29 PM
103	For a few questions, it was hard to pick one option or the other because I felt that I was really somewhere in between. For example, I like spending time with my married friends, and I would attend a singles-only event. However, it would be important that the singles event is not of the type (preferably explicitly) where singles meet and become "un-single".	7/23/2015 4:02 PM
104	I find it difficult to attend church if I don't go with my family or other single ppl. Most Sundays I will stay home and watch service on TV rather than attending service. When you go by yourself, you get those ppl who cast judgment bc your a single female. It is definitely seen as a negative to be approaching 30 and not married in the South. People automatically assume something is wrong with her.	7/23/2015 3:42 PM
105	It would be nice to hear from those who use to have premarital sex, but decided later to wait for marriage. I have a hard time relating to virgins. I'm not sure how to explain my new choice of "waiting" to guys I date. They don't understand.	7/23/2015 2:05 PM



106	I think that dating is something the church has stayed away from because church leaders forget the struggle. A lot of sin, depression, loneliness could be avoided if the church took a more active role in creating positive social experiences for singles of all ages. I know of churches that have singles groups for those over 40 and social groups for those in high school or college but really nothing for those of us that are in the late 20's - 30's.	7/23/2015 12:19 PM
107	I have been most encouraged by my church actively seeking my participation and helping me see where my gifts fit into the Kingdom.	7/23/2015 11:16 AM