

Single & Single-Again TUES NITES Meal, Message & Mixer

Friendship, Romance, and Relationships That Work

Jane Stolz' video teaching, handout, and audio Mp3 file of this message will be online to share with others at www.christiansinglesindenver.com

Questions of the Heart

- Is there really only one perfect match – one soul mate for each person
- What's the difference between having standards and being too picky?
- Are all the really great ones already taken?
- What's the best way to meet the person who's right for me?
- Should I take matters into my own hands, or should I wait for god to bring him or her to me?
- Does God want me to acknowledge He's sovereign in this area, or does He want me to take responsibility for my own life and choices?
- How do I know God's will?
- How does one really know he or she is in love?

Whew! Quite a list! But actually, if you look at the questions again, you will find there is one pivotal question. If you answer this one, all the rest will come into focus. The pivotal question is - **Can God's will be discovered?**

There is evidence from the Bible that God's will can be discovered. The Scriptures use many phrases to assure us of God's leadership, including "He leads me beside quiet waters," "guide me in your truth." "your word is a lamp to my feet," and "seek and you will find." One thing you can be sure: God wants you to know His will even more than you want to receive it!

First, if you want God's blessings, then live a life He can bless. Having a mate is just one kind of blessing. Proverbs 18:22 says, "He who finds a wife finds what is good and receives favor from the Lord." God says singleness can be a gift too – So how do we know if that gift is ours? And if we feel we don't have a gift to be single, how do we discern who our gift in marriage is? How do we know we're not choosing someone else's present?

To discern God's will, start with the known. In the Bible, God provides several verses that explicitly say, "This is God's will for you."

A Life that God Blesses:

There are only a few statements in the New Testament that clearly say, "This is God's will" or "This pleases God." When we are obeying those statements, all the decisions we make while obeying them agree with God's will. There is freedom in obeying the basic responsibilities God has given us.

God blesses a life that is saved – 1 Timothy 2:3-4 says, "This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all men to be saved and to come to knowledge of the truth." God blesses a person who has decided to believe in Him and come to Him through Christ, admitting that he

or she is imperfect and needs the Savior Jesus Christ. Want to find God's best? Start by finding God Himself.

God blesses a life that is Spirit filled – Ephesians 5:18 says, “Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit.” God blesses a life that is in step with Him.

God blesses a life that is sanctified – Romans 12:1-2 explains: *Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God – this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is – his good pleasing and perfect will.* You will be able to see God's will when you think more like Him and less like yourself, so commit your thought life to God.

God blesses a life that is sexually pure – 1 Thessalonians 4:3 makes it clear, “It is God's will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality.” Here's a hard one, especially for singles. God will bless you only when you run relationships His way. And His way means no sex outside of marriage.

God blesses a life that says, “Thank You!” – 1 Thessalonians 5:18 commands, “Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.” You got it – God blesses a positive attitude! Instead of seeing what you don't have, try thanking God for what you do have. Instead of going to a group function saying, “I hope I meet someone,” choose to say, “I hope I help put someone else at ease.” Instead of saying “There's no one for me,” try saying, “How can I help create a positive social atmosphere for my other Christian single friends?” Instead of worrying about how others are receiving you, try receiving others by loving and accepting them unconditionally. Take your eyes off yourself. That's the kind of life God blesses. How do we know? Philippians 2:3-4 “Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves.

God blesses a life that is suffering for right – 1 Peter 3:17 reminds us, “It is better, if it is God's will, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil.” Here's the deal: Everyone will suffer. We live in a broken, imperfect world. There is pain. There is frustration. There is inconvenience. There are hassles. Life is hard, so choose your suffering. It's better to do right and have the suffering that comes from pleasing God more than man.

God blesses a life that seeks Him – Psalm 119:2 says, “Blessed are they who keep his statutes and seek him with all their heart.” Proverbs 8:17 notes, “I love those who love me, and those who see me find me.” Deuteronomy 4:28 add, “But if from there you seek the Lord your God, you will find him if you look for him with all your heart and with all your soul.” God blesses a seeking heart. When you are looking for God and His best for your life, your heart takes you places you wouldn't go naturally.

When God is leading your life: you will be at the right place on the right day. God knows you need a social life, and He knows whether being married or single is best for you. That's why seeking God is the key ingredient to discovering the plan God has for you.

God says He knows “the plans (He) has for you, to give you a future and a hope” Jeremiah 29:11

- **God Knows Us by Name; We Should Know Others by Name**
- **God Values a Good Reputation; We Should know a Person's Reputation**
- **Inner Character Quality Is Valued Higher than Outward Appearance**
- **Meet People in a Way that Keeps You in Ministry**
- **Socialize to Stay Other-Centered, Not Self-Centered**

1 Corinthians 13:4-7

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking. It is not easily angered; it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

Are you who the person you are looking for is looking for?

Love one another – Just as I have loved you! Love your wives as Christ Loved the Church – Give your life for her! Just like Jesus gave of himself for the world. Treat all women with respect – assign them honor! (1 Peter 3:7)

Be a gentleman – women are made in the image of God. Treat all of them with honor!

Renew your mind to think differently – Make up your mind to behave differently.

Proverbs 14:8 *The wisdom of the prudent is to give thought to their ways, but the folly of fools is deception.*

Proverbs 14:15 *A simple man believes anything, but a prudent man gives thought to his steps*

The paths people choose trump the commitments they make.

The question is where has their path been, and where are they headed?

The past is a better indicator than a promise.

Are you in process of becoming the person you want to attract?

If not – Commit now to becoming someone who can keep commitments later.

If you attempt to build intimacy with a person before you've done the hard work of becoming a whole and healthy person, every relationship will be an attempt to complete the hole in your heart!

**The most important thing in life
is to learn how to give out love, and to let it come in.**

Every day we get the chance to love well. Sometimes we take this chance; sometimes we ignore it and sometimes we are fortunate enough to receive it. Loving well is a simple, pure gift given from the heart. It doesn't require much planning or effort; it just requires the awareness to do it.

Loving well is about lifting our heads to see who is waiting beyond our reach. It's about being aware of the needs of others and, when appropriate, to place these needs before our own. To love well is an unselfish act of giving without considering what's in it for us. The simple act of loving well is the antidote when a heart needs some tender nourishment.

Learning to Love Well:

- **Love cannot be rushed or forced. It has to be given the space to grow and breathe.**
- To love well is to celebrate the imperfections, too.
- **Love starts from the inside and then works out.**
- Love needs to take quiet breaks along the way.
- **To love well is to know when to stop talking and to start doing.**
- Love points to our hearts' true north when we feel alone.
- **Love never expires; only our ability to feel it.**
- To love well is to show more gratitude than disappointment.
- **Knowing how to love someone is more powerful than the best intention.**
- Love sees through the shame to acknowledge the beauty that lives within.
- **Love finds peace in the chaos.**
- The way we love ourselves shapes our confidence.
- **To love well is to look for an opportunity to be an encourager.**
- Love is the witness to goodness.
- **The best gift we can receive is to be given a second chance to love.**
- To love well is the point of being human.
- Simple, one word acts of loving well

The act of loving well is not defined by how large we love, but by how we love gently, sweetly and simply. When we do this, love's wonderful message continues to fill our hearts with its grace. The simple act of loving well can sometimes be defined by just one word. While tremendous effort can live behind each word, the results of these words can be seen immediately:

- Generous
- Compassionate
- Trusting
- Forgiving

- Awareness
- Sensitive
- Kindness
- Patient
- Passionate
- Sharing
- Supportive
- Positive
- Accommodating
- Responsive
- Sincerity
- Authentic
- Inspiring
- Understanding

Questions for Q & A

HELPFUL TIPS for Great Table Discussions **Each table should have a designated Table Host.**

1. Use God's ear-to-mouth ratio:

Listen two times more than you speak. 1 or 2 people should not dominate the time, and EVERYONE should contribute during the discussion.

2. Smile and be friendly.

Avoid excessive complaining about people or personal problems.

3. God's grace rules the day

Recognize that everyone will not always agree – be gracious and give grace to one another. People are at different places in their spiritual walk and in their life journey.

4. Moving the discussion along.

Table host/facilitators are to move the discussion along. They have permission to limit any negative comments, to invite people to answer a question, to ask someone for their perspective, to limit the amount of time some people speak, and to move on to the next question.

5. Help for the hurting:

This is a supportive group, but it is not a support group or a therapy session. But if someone is really hurting, take a moment and have someone in the group specifically pray for them.

Table Discussion Questions:

1. In the 7 Characteristics of “A Life that God Blesses” Which area(s) do you feel strongest in? Which do you either want to make changes in or learn more information about?
2. In your experience, what has been the best place (s) to meet interesting, like-minded people? What has been the worst?
3. What is your personal recommendation for developing a more interesting social life that God would be pleased with?
4. Read 1 Corinthians 13:4-5. In this passage, we find a list of qualities that are characteristic of the “right person.” Which of these qualities is the most difficult for you to exhibit? Which quality do you value most in someone you want to date, your spouse, or significant other?
5. Becoming *the person who the person you are looking for is looking for* is hard. But it is not as hard as getting married and being unprepared. Think about a couple of things you can do this week to become that person—the right person.

*Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud.
It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking . . .*

1 Corinthians 13:4-5