

First

# CORINTHIANS

**CHRIST ALONE: TOGETHER**



# Relationship Status: It's Complicated

## 1 Corinthians 7:8-16

<sup>8</sup> To the unmarried and the widows I say that it is good for them to remain single, as I am. <sup>9</sup> But if they cannot exercise self-control, they should marry. For it is better to marry than to burn with passion. <sup>10</sup> To the married I give this charge (not I, but the Lord): the wife should not separate from her husband <sup>11</sup> (but if she does, she should remain unmarried or else be reconciled to her husband),

## 1 Corinthians 7:8-16

and the husband should not divorce his wife.

<sup>12</sup> To the rest I say (I, not the Lord) that if any brother has a wife who is an unbeliever, and she consents to live with him, he should not divorce her. <sup>13</sup> If any woman has a husband who is an unbeliever, and he consents to live with her, she should not divorce him.

<sup>14</sup> For the unbelieving husband is made holy because of his wife, and the unbelieving wife is made holy

## 1 Corinthians 7:8-16

because of her husband. Otherwise your children would be unclean, but as it is, they are holy. <sup>15</sup> But if the unbelieving partner separates, let it be so. In such cases the brother or sister is not enslaved. God has called you to peace. <sup>16</sup> For how do you know, wife, whether you will save your husband? Or how do you know, husband, whether you will save your wife?

**Challenges in relationships are inevitable.**

## Genesis 3:16

<sup>16</sup> To the woman he said,

“I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing;  
in pain you shall bring forth children.  
Your desire shall be contrary to your husband,  
but he shall rule over you.”

# Challenges in relationships are inevitable.

- **Life changes people**



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- **Being unprepared for change can be challenging**
  - Feelings of pain, sorrow, confusion, being left behind
  - Our minds and hopes start to wander
  - **Desire for control over the change**

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  - Move away from God's design
  - **Move toward God's design**

**Challenges in relationships can distract us from or draw us to God's design for our good.**



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- **Single people**

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# Challenges in relationships can distract us from or draw us to God's design for our good.

- Single people
  - **Away from God's design**

# Challenges in relationships can distract us from or draw us to God's design for our good.

- Single people
  - Away from God's design
    - **Pursue unhealthy relationships**

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    - **Angry at God over singleness**

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  - Away from God's design
    - Pursue unhealthy relationships
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  - **Toward God's design**

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  - Away from God's design
    - Pursue unhealthy relationships
    - Angry at God over singleness
  - Toward God's design
    - **Pursue their identity in God**



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- Single people
  - Away from God's design
    - Pursue unhealthy relationships
    - Angry at God over singleness
  - Toward God's design
    - Pursue their identity in God
    - **Display confidence in God despite not having their ideal relationship status**

**Challenges in relationships can distract us from or draw us to God's design for our good.**

- **Two married believers**

## 1 Corinthians 7:10-11

<sup>10</sup> To the **married** I give this charge (not I, but the Lord): the wife should not separate from her husband <sup>11</sup> (but if she does, she should remain unmarried or else be reconciled to her husband), and the husband should not divorce his wife. <sup>12</sup> To the rest I say (I, not the Lord) that if any brother has a wife who is an unbeliever, and she consents to live with him, he should not divorce her.

## 1 Corinthians 7:10-11

<sup>10</sup> To the **married** I give this charge (not I, but the Lord): the wife **should not separate** from her husband <sup>11</sup> (but if she does, she should remain unmarried or else be reconciled to her husband), and the husband **should not divorce** his wife. <sup>12</sup> To the rest I say (I, not the Lord) that if any brother has a wife who is an unbeliever, and she consents to live with him, he should not divorce her.

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- Two married believers
  - **Away from God's design**

# Challenges in relationships can distract us from or draw us to God's design for our good.

- Two married believers
  - Away from God's design
    - **Divorce**

# Challenges in relationships can distract us from or draw us to God's design for our good.

- Two married believers
  - Away from God's design
    - Divorce
    - **Settling**

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  - Away from God's design
    - Divorce
    - Settling
  - **Toward God's design**



# Challenges in relationships can distract us from or draw us to God's design for our good.

- Two married believers
  - Away from God's design
    - Divorce
    - Settling
  - Toward God's design
    - **Pursuing God wholeheartedly, individually**

**Brian**

**Janelle**

**Brian ————— Janelle**

**GOD**

**Brian ————— Janelle**

**GOD**

**Brian**

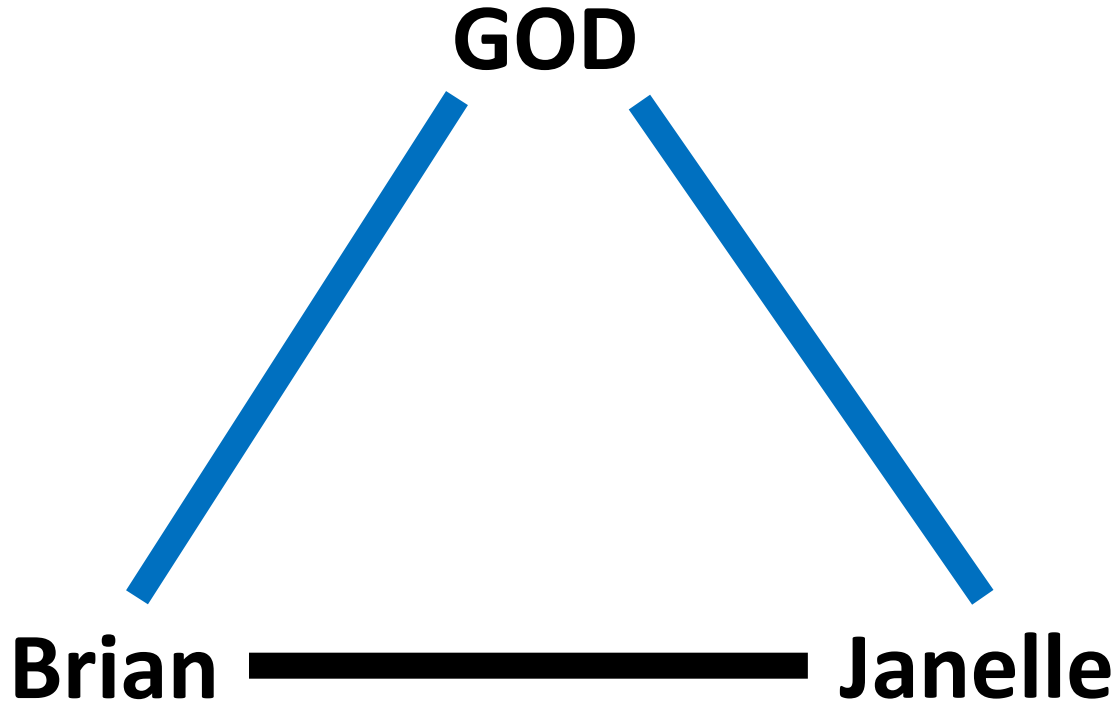
**Janelle**



**GOD**

**Brian**

**Janelle**



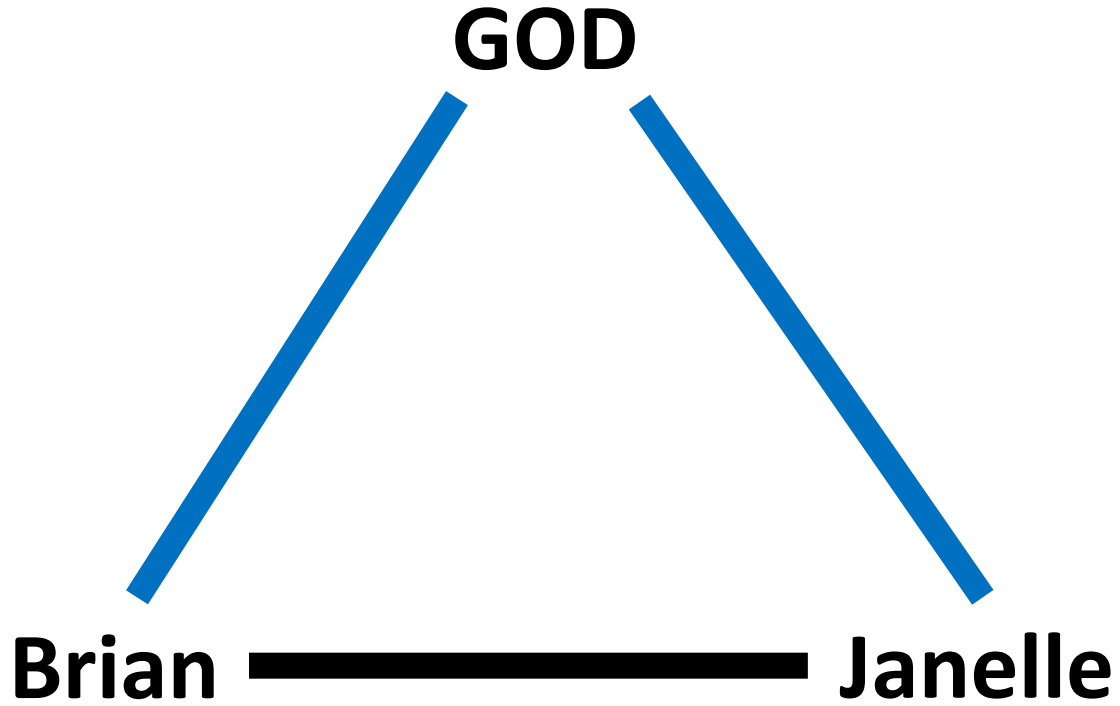
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- Two married believers
  - Away from God's design
    - Divorce
    - Settling
  - Toward God's design
    - Pursuing God wholeheartedly, individually
    - **Pursuing spiritual intimacy as a couple**

**GOD**

**Brian**

**Janelle**





**GOD**

**Brian**

**Janelle**

**Challenges in relationships can distract us from or draw us to God's design for our good.**

- **A believer in a mixed-faith marriage**

## 1 Corinthians 7:12-16

<sup>12</sup> To the rest I say (I, not the Lord) that if **any brother has a wife who is an unbeliever**, and she consents to live with him, he should not divorce her. <sup>13</sup> If any **woman has a husband who is an unbeliever**, and he consents to live with her, she should not divorce him. <sup>14</sup> For the unbelieving husband is made holy because of his wife, and the unbelieving wife is made holy because of her husband.

## 1 Corinthians 7:12-16

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## 1 Corinthians 7:8-16

Otherwise your children would be unclean, but as it is, **they are holy**.<sup>15</sup> But if the unbelieving partner separates, let it be so. In such cases the brother or sister is not enslaved. God has called you to peace.<sup>16</sup> For how do you know, wife, whether you will save your husband? Or how do you know, husband, whether you will save your wife?

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  - **Away from God's design**

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- A believer in a mixed-faith marriage
  - Away from God's design
    - **Divorce**



# Challenges in relationships can distract us from or draw us to God's design for our good.

- A believer in a mixed-faith marriage
  - Away from God's design
    - Divorce
    - **Drifting**

# Challenges in relationships can distract us from or draw us to God's design for our good.

- A believer in a mixed-faith marriage
  - Away from God's design
    - Divorce
    - Drifting
  - **Toward God's design**

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- A believer in a mixed-faith marriage
  - Away from God's design
    - Divorce
    - Drifting
  - Toward God's design
    - **Pursuing God wholeheartedly**

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- A believer in a mixed-faith marriage
  - Away from God's design
    - Divorce
    - Drifting
  - Toward God's design
    - Pursuing God wholeheartedly
    - **Desiring to bring spouse to faith**

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## **This Week:**

- **Whatever your relationship status, married or single – ask God to continue to reveal himself through those around you**

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- Whatever your relationship status, married or single – ask God to continue to reveal himself through those around you
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- **Be the one that encourages spiritual intimacy in your relationships**