

# *Desperately Seeking...*



Seeking God's best in the single life

By John Cospers

[www.righteousinsanity.com/seeking](http://www.righteousinsanity.com/seeking)

## Introduction

In early 2006 I got engaged to the woman who is now my wife. This engagement capped the end of a thirteen year run as a young single that started with my high school graduation in 1993. During that time I had a handful of girlfriends, two previous fiancées, and many long dry spells of plain, old fashioned singleness.

As excited as I was to finally be starting a family, I looked back on my single years with both thankfulness and regret. I was thankful for the opportunities being single afforded me. I finished college on time (four years), I bought a house, I started a drama ministry or two, and I traveled the US and Canada with one of those ministries. Yet I knew as I looked back there were many wasted days and nights in those thirteen years. Too much of that time was spent in self-pity and jealousy and not enough was spent in service or devotion to God.

I wanted to create something for singles, something to help me remember what being single was like and to show others it's not all about waiting for true love. A website seemed like a good idea, but with my attention already divided between two drama sites, I knew I wouldn't be able to give it my best. I prayed and told God, "If there's someone out there already doing this, I'll let it go."

I was disgusted by what I found. Hours of searches, I found nothing - NOTHING! - encouraging Christian singles in their single life and walk with Christ? Do you know what I found? Meat markets. Nothing but dating sites as far as they eye could see.

Long story short, instead of creating a devotional-type site for singles, I created getyoked.net, a parody Christian dating site featuring video personals that spoofed every Christian single stereotype you could imagine. From the morally lenient to the aging (i.e. almost 30) and desperate, I tried to cover them all.

The website got some decent traffic and buzz. It was even banned from a large Christian web directory for "offensive content." I was disappointed at first by this, but I took amusement when I discovered this site was also behind one of the largest (at the time) Christian dating sites on the web. Sure, I skirted the edge with humor, but I think I also stomped on a few toes.

Getyoked is no longer an active website, but when I started creating Bible study material for Righteous Insanity, I knew I had a ready-made video series in the old Getyoked videos. This series is designed to get singles laughing and then talking. My hope is not to prepare singles for marriage, but equip them for right now, for serving God where they are and finding contentment in being where God wants them to be now. Yes, that can involve preparation for the future, but that preparation should never come at the expense of living the life God has planned for you RIGHT NOW!

I hope and pray that these videos and Bible studies will be the catalyst to great discussions and deeper connections between Christians and their Creator. Use the lessons as written and provided, modify them, or create your own if you don't like mine. And when lesson time is over, don't forget to put your faith into action.

Blessings to you, wherever God has put you. His plans for you are not in any holding pattern. He has a plan for you today, right where you are!

John Cospers  
Writer/creator of this

All of the videos for this study can be found online at:

[www.righteousinsanity.com/seeking](http://www.righteousinsanity.com/seeking)

## Desperately Seeking...

### Leaning to seek what you need the most

## Meet Kristen

Hi, I'm Kristen. I'm a teaching assistant who works with special needs kids. I'm a big health nut. I love exercise and jogging, and just being outside. I also love music, and I'm on the worship team in my church. What I'm looking for is a godly man. I don't care what denomination he is. I don't care if he's a fiscal conservative or an socially minded liberal. I just need to find him before December 29th. I'm 29 years old, and December 29th, I turn 30. When that happens, they'll kick me out of the young singles group up to the older singles. And there's no way I'm gonna walk that route. I mean come on, have you seen the people in the older singles group? Hapless losers who can't talk to women! Co-dependent divorcees. Sleazy single parents. There's good REASON why these people are single, and if I was counted among their number... well, I'd kill myself. So please, whoever you are, hit me up. We'll live where you want. We'll have ten kids, three, or none at all. Just save me from a fate worse than death!

## First Impressions

What do you think of Kristen?

What are some good things we can say about Kristen?

What "issues" do you think Kristen has?

## Introduction

Kristen is probably a great person, but Kristen is a victim of a system that says if you're not in a relationship, your life is incomplete. The culture we live in constantly bombards us with messages like this. We hear it in pop music, we see it on TV and in movies, we read about it online, and we hear about it from the people around us.

You would think the church of all places would be a refuge, but often times it is not. Churches are filled with well-meaning, usually married people who have forgotten (or never knew) what a blessing the single life can be. Singleness is a gift. It's a time of

growth, and it's a time of freedom. Singles have all the time married people can only dream of to learn, to draw closer to God, and to serve others.

## Read 1 Corinthians 7

What sort of obligations do married people have that single people do not?

How can these obligations be a hindrance to a person's spiritual growth?

What advice does Paul give to single people?

What spiritual advantage is there to being single vs. being married?

## Application

Based on the scripture we've read, what advice would you give to Kristen?

How can we shift our focus from worrying about dating and relationships to growing our faith in God?

How can we devote our single days to serving the Lord?

Have fun with this one: What sort of answers can we give to those well-meaning but misguided believers who think life isn't complete until we are married?

## Prayer

Dear Jesus,

Thank you for the single life you have given us. Help us to remember this time is a blessing so we will not waste it on ourselves. Teach us to love and serve others and give you our best.

In Jesus' name,  
Amen

## Seeking Jesus Leaning to love like Christ

### Meet Michael

Hi ladies. I'm Michael. I'm not like a lot of guys out there who think they are God's gift. I'm not God's gift - I just play him every day from 9 to 6 right here in Orlando's Easter Village and Amusement Park Resort, where you can share the last supper, witness the trial, death, and resurrection of Jesus, played by me, and still have time for a sno-cone and a few spins on our record-setting roller coaster, Golgotha! I'm looking for a woman who will be understanding of the long hours I work. She has to love kids, because I do. That's not an act, girls. And she has to be okay with a little fake blood in the laundry, because hard as I shower after my daily execution, that stuff just doesn't come out. It's Florida, it's Easter every day, it's paradise here. It gets a little ugly around 3 PM, but joy comes in the morning - or in our case, 5:30 in the afternoon. Can't wait to meet you, ladies. God bless!

### First Impressions

What do you think of Michael?

What are some good things we can say about Michael?

Is there anything that concerns you about Michael?

### Introduction

Michael has an interesting job. Seven days a week, he dresses up and pretends to be Jesus. As challenging as that may be, it's a far cry from the challenge God wants us all to undertake on a daily basis. Michael acts like Christ in a Christian theme park, surrounded by the faithful. We are called to walk like Christ every day in a world that has rejected him.

An actor portraying a real person, on stage or screen, spends a great deal of time studying their role. They read biographies. They watch footage, if footage exists. They look at photographs. They study their subject from every angle to be the best imitation they can be.

Following Christ means we must get to know Jesus. We must study him from every angle. We must learn to see the world as he does and act the way he did.

## Read Philippians 2:1-11

How does Paul describe Jesus?

What are some of the distinguishing characteristics of Jesus?

How did Jesus view other people? Whom did he value? Whom did he seek out?

Why did Jesus sacrifice so much?

## Application

Do you think we as Christians spend enough time going into the world to live like Christ?

What are some of the biggest obstacles to living like Jesus in the “real” world?

What are some things we can do to live more like Christ at work? At school? In our neighborhoods?

What sacrifices can we make to show others that Jesus loves them?

Is there something we can do as a group to serve others?



## Prayer

Dear Jesus,

Thank you for Jesus and all the sacrifices he made for us. Teach us to be imitators of Christ so that the love of Jesus will shine in our lives.

In Jesus' name,  
Amen

## Seeking Obedience

Leaning not to compromise God's standards

### Meet Pete

Hi. I'm Pete. I'm a paramedic, and I make a good living. When I'm not riding the ambulance, I'm volunteering for the community. I love working with the youth group, and frequently do security for youth concerts. I'm a Christian, and I'm looking for a Christian woman. She's gotta be bright. She's gotta be spiritual. And she's gotta have a certain moral leniency. You know what I mean? She believes in the ten commandments. Except she doesn't necessarily practice that one. You know, that one? No, not the one about the parents. I dated a girl who didn't believe in that one, and she was so rude to her Mom, it was just a turn off. I mean that other one. You know what I'm saying? I mean I'll marry ya and stuff if it's good, but... let's face it. You don't wanna wait any more than I do. That's not immoral. That's honesty. And isn't that what Jesus taught us?

### First Impressions

What do you think of Pete?

What are some good things we can say about Jenny?

Is there anything that concerns you about Pete?

### Introduction

Of all the characters introduced in this series of videos, no one stirred up more reaction than Pete. Pete's faith may be genuine, and his love for God real, but Pete is holding back. As much as he wants to be a man of God, there are areas in his life - one in particular - he refuses to surrender to God.

The Bible is very clear on what is good and what is a sin, and the Bible doesn't forbid anything without reason. Sex was created for a husband and a wife, and there are consequences - spiritual, emotional, and physical - for disobeying God's commands for sex.

Sex isn't the only area where Christians try to compromise with God. Sin is sin, and all sin puts a wall between us and the Lord. God wants us to obey him in everything. He

wants us to keep our bodies, our hearts, and our minds pure. He wants us to set ourselves apart from the world by our obedience.

## Read Daniel 1

What compromises did King Nebuchadnezzar want the Israelite men to make?

Why do you think Nebuchadnezzar insisted the Israelites eat the king's food and drink his wine?

Why did Daniel and his friends refuse to obey the king?

How do you think the test Daniel and his friends undertook changed the way the king saw Daniel?

## Application

Why do you think so many singles have compromised on sex and other sins?

Do you think it's possible to remain pure until you are married? Why or why not?

What are some other temptations that singles struggle with?

How can obeying God make us a good witness to others?

How can we develop the strength and character we need to stay pure?

## Prayer

Dear Jesus,

Forgive us for the compromises we make every day when we give into sin. Purify our hearts, and give us strength when we need it to resist temptation.

In Jesus' name,  
Amen

## Seeking Responsibility

### Leaning to stand on your own two feet

## Meet Miriam

Hello, my name is Miriam. I'm from a big family down south, and my daddy was a preacher. After graduating from my high school – I was home schooled, of course – I went off to Bible College with one goal: to marry a preacher like my Daddy. Unfortunately, for whatever reason, God chose not to bless me with a husband while I was in school. So here I am, four years later, with no marketable skills except teaching piano lessons, and \$100,000 debt. I still believe it is my destiny to marry a preacher, but if I can be totally honest, I'll marry the first guy who comes along that can pay off my Bible College loans. True, I can't pull my own weight in the job market, but you want a good wife to home school your kids and teach them to play piano, you know where to find me.

## First Impressions

What do you think of Miriam?

What are some good things we can say about Miriam?

What red flags do you see in Miriam?

## Introduction

Miriam sounds like a young woman with a good heart. She might even make a great pastor's wife. But Miriam was not very wise in her college plans. She had the opportunity to get a good education, to start a career, and to gain some independence. Instead, she graduated school with a huge debt and little to show for it.

Being a stay-at-home parent is as noble a life choice as having a career, but God doesn't want us to enter the world as helpless, dependent babes. Your single years are a time for learning how to be wise with the opportunities and the blessings you have been given. It is a time to get an education, to learn how to provide for yourself, and to learn how to manage your money.

God has given each one of us talents and opportunities. If we don't use those gifts wisely, we have no one to blame but ourselves.

## Read Matthew 25:14-30

How did the rich man reward the servants who invested their talents wisely?

Why did the rich man punish the one who did not invest their talents?

What do you think Jesus is really talking about in this parable?

Which of the servants do you think most matches up with Miriam, and why?

## Application

Why is it important for us to learn to be independent, even if we plan on getting married?

How would learning to be a good money manager and learning to live on your own benefit you in married life?

What other skills do you think you need in addition to being a good money manager?

What are you doing to establish yourself as a self-sufficient person right now?

Is there anything you need help with right now so that you can stand on your own two feet?

## Prayer

Dear Jesus,

Thank you for the gifts you have given us. Help us to invest those gifts and be wise stewards of all you have given us.

In Jesus' name,  
Amen

## Seeking Compatibility

### Learning what matters most in a mate

#### Meet Doug

Hey, ladies, what's up? My name's Doug. I'm 24 and live here in beautiful Chicago. I moved here two years ago to be closer to a special group of friends. We have an online community known as the Tribulation Force. That's right. I'm a Tribbie. For those of you not cool enough to get it, it means I'm a card carrying member of the Tribulation Force, the official fan community for Left Behind. I'm not one of those posers either who jumped on the bandwagon when the Matrix sequels came out and lost their way. I was there from the beginning. I've got Tim LaHaye's autograph, a copy of the "What to do if you've been left behind" video, and I even have photos of me with Kirk Cameron. We're like THAT, you know? Anyway, this Buck is looking for his Chloe. So if you're out there, if you're a Tribbie like me, and you've seen all three movies with director's commentary at least three times, call me! Jesus is coming, baby; don't you wanna get raptured with me?

#### First Impressions

What do you think of Doug?

What are some good things we can say about Doug?

If he asked, would you go to the movies with Doug?

#### Introduction

Regardless of what you may think about his taste in movies and literature, we're all a little like Doug. Some of us love science fiction and comic books. Some are sports fans. Some like art and classical music. And some people can't get enough of professional wrestling.

Finding things in common with a mate is important, but what commonalities are most important? As Christians we need to be seeking people who are like-minded in their faith. We need to find someone who shares our values so that we can live out our faith and pass it on to our children.



The focus of this series is on making the most of our single days, but that doesn't mean we can't do that with an eye to the future. Learn now what's most important to you in a husband or wife. Make your list of intangibles, and don't compromise those in the slightest. There are worse things than being single, and being "unequally yoked" is one.

## Read 2 Corinthians 6:14-18

What does it mean to be yoked? (Feel free to have someone Google this question if need be!)

Why does Paul caution against being unequally yoked?

Why would being married to an unbeliever be hard?

How would marrying an unbeliever make raising children who love Jesus difficult?

## Application

What are some things you simply couldn't live with in a mate? Is there anything that's come up in a past relationship, even something small, that you just couldn't live with? (This doesn't have to be a serious thing; it can be small or funny.)

Have any of you ever tried "missionary dating," dating someone to try to lead them to Christ? How did that work out for you?

Is there value in knowing what you can and can't live with in a mate before dating?

Have each person in the group come up with a list of five things they think are most important in a mate. Share your lists, and see if you can come up with a master list.

## Prayer

Dear Jesus,

Make us wise as look for your will in our lives. Help us to cling to what's most important so that we won't compromise our faith. Bless us with godly spouses who build us up in Christ.

In Jesus' name,  
Amen

## Seeking God's Best Learning life's not about you

### Meet Jenny

Hi. I'm Jenny, and I am looking for my best life now. Haha. I just love that joke. Seriously, though, I am looking for the man God promised to give me through his prophet, Pastor Joel Osteen. You see I wasn't always a believer. I was doing my own thing, going my own way, completely lost, until one day I saw Joel Osteen on TV. He told me God wanted to give me a nice job, money, and a family. All I had to do was read his books and give to his ministry and the Lord would open the floodgate of blessings. Well guess what? I read the book, I joined the church, and before I knew it, I got a job at Golden Corral. It's true! I've already worked my way up to assistant to the Sunday shift manager, and I didn't even go to college! Now that I have the career, I just need to find a husband to make my life complete. So if you're like me, looking for your best life now, drop me a line! Together, we can become a better us.

### First Impressions

What do you think of Jenny?

What are some good things we can say about Jenny?

Is there anything that concerns you about Jenny?

### Introduction

Jenny really is interested in finding God's best, isn't she? She's read the books, and she's looking for God to give her all of the good things in life. There's just one problem: God has already given us his best. He's given us Jesus. Jesus came not to give us wealth and good health. He came to give us the best blessing of all: our salvation.

Too many believers are focused on what God can do for them. Not enough are concerned with what they can do to serve the Lord. Jesus died for us. He's given far more than we could ever earn or deserve.

The Christian life isn't about what we can get from God. It's about how we can give back. We can never give enough to equal what Jesus has done, but we can use our

time, our gifts, and the blessings God has given us to serve the Lord and serve other people.

## Read Matthew 20:20-28

Why do you think James and John's mother asked Jesus for a favor?

How did Jesus respond to her request?

Jesus said that whomever wants to be the greatest has to be the servant of all. How did Jesus live out this command?

Does anyone know how James and John ultimately lived out their lives? (James was martyred, as were nine other disciples. John was repeatedly jailed and tortured for Christ and was even dipped in boiling oil. He died of natural causes in exile.)

## Application

Why do you think people are drawn to teachers who tell them that God wants to give them riches and blessings?

Do teachings like the so-called prosperity gospel do more to help or hurt the cause of Christ?

What would you say to someone like Jenny about God's best?

What advice would you give to someone who wanted God's best life right now?

## Prayer

Dear Jesus,

Forgive us for the times we treat you like a blessing machine. Help us remember all Jesus has done for us. Teach us to be servants so we can live the life you have planned for us.

In Jesus' name,  
Amen