

FOLLOW-UP QUESTION 10

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## **Any tips for other single women about how you have learned to respond to remarks about “being single”?**

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### **Responses**

While trying not to sound like I am rubbing in my freedom, I do like to point out the positives of the ministry and opportunities I get to participate in because I am single, that I wouldn't otherwise have the time or energy to do. Most people are thoughtful and interested, and I hope it sparks change of thought about singleness. And I am open to talking about both the joys and the difficulties. But there are always difficulties and life is never what we thought it would be, no matter if it looks like people expect it to or not.

Helps to have thick skin. One has to be flexible. The biggest thing is to understand and get to a place that it doesn't matter what others say. They have no idea what a single's life is like and it is very difficult to get them to understand what goes on.

Just be real with people. I often tell people to pray for “one single man” to come to church.

The more comfortable you are with yourself, the more others will realize that type of remark is out of place. They will be aware that in many ways you are more balanced than they perceive singles to be and it will be more difficult to find reasons you should not be single.

Most or at least much of what women perceive as negative is felt as such because of our own shame and insecurity. Before thinking a response is even required, truly ask if the remark was meant or even spoken the way it was heard and received by you. If you are sure of how it was spoken, and feel it needs a response, ask yourself why. Often we speak out of defensiveness instead of wisdom and humility and grace.

I usually reference the Apostle Paul. Being single is okay. Being a single, godly woman is okay!

When I am approached with why am I still single, I just say well God's timing is perfect, and he has a different plan for me right now. When someone tries to "set me up", I always say, "Well, invited them to church and we can see what will happen, a person can never have to many friends."

It sucks sometimes. Lol. People say, "all in good time" "just wait for God's timing" "it will happen when it happens" and while all of that is true... let face it... being single and lonely sucks sometimes. And it's ok to feel that way. Just don't let it consume you!

Laughing.

It is what it is. Wasn't the way most of us saw things unfolding, but that's what happened and once the dust has time to settle and once you find your groove for what works in your life you will gain that confidence to just say it. "I'm not married". "I'm single". And when people ask if I think I might ever get remarried, I have now come to a place that that would be something I would like to happen and maybe if it's God will he will place someone in my path.

Gods timing is always perfect. Don't settle, and embrace this season of being single.

I just usually say that If the Lord wanted me to be married I would be. If the person is rude I ask them if they would like me to go against the Lords will :)

I think the most important thing is being happy at every stage of your life. People often will say offensive things, but it gets less when they realize that you are not "missing out on happiness".

I usually have two responses depending on the person/situation. 1) I just laugh it off, because it doesn't always have to be this heavy, life-affecting topic. There's humility that comes in owning your singleness, but there's also pride in recognizing that it doesn't define or label you either. Whether I'm single or in a relationship, I'm still me either way, and that's the best part. 2) I use it as an opportunity to talk about the wonderful things about being single and help bring a new perspective into the conversation with others.

DO NOT INTERNALIZE THE COMMENTS. They are truly not worth your time. Just live your life to God's glory and keep going.

Smile, do not over react. Remind yourself that they have never been in your situation.

I usually go with something like "God seems to like me this way" with a shrug.

Ask (sincerely) if you can pray for their marriage.

I usually laugh it off because even though those remarks hurt, the people who make them mean well. When I hear something like that, I try to pray that I would not lose heart no matter what God has in my future.

I haven't had to deal with this too much. Most people I know avoid the subject.

Embrace who you are and where you are on your journey. Ask the lord for strength and courage and wisdom. Learning to be content doesn't mean you have to stop asking for your heart's desire. It's ok to tell God that you are fine being single but if it's his will you want to be able to be married if that is what you desire — He is enough but He also created us with the capacity for marriage so He understands. •••Note: the answer to the next question will be no because I will no longer be a single woman in a few months. However, if you want my input anyway I am happy to help where I can.

I'm so happy that it isn't a problem for me. I usually say I don't want to be married again.

I would say the best thing you can do is not worry about other people's opinions. Learn to be confident enough in yourself that you don't even need to respond to other's remarks.

God is not going to design marriage for everyone.

I seldom get that, and actually have some concern about the extent to which I have surrounded myself with single adults, virtually all women. I'm currently considering ways to expand my friendship circle.

I like to remind myself that whatever God has planned for my life is infinitely better than I could ever hope for or dream. Enjoy being single now and enjoy the spontaneity of following God with all the crazy opportunities he gives you.

I have learned that most people (women specifically) when they make comments about me being single it's because they are worried about my future, worried that I will be lonely or unable to support myself. So my immediate reaction is to become a little frustrated like "it's happening again, " but after, I try to imagine how they must feel, and I don't feel as bad.