

DISCONNECTED SINGLES

I Corinthians 7:25-31

The <u>resurrection</u> of Jesus Christ <u>fundamentally changes</u> what is meant by "be <u>fruitful</u> and <u>multiply</u>."

"So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

And God blessed them. And God said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

"Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed."

"And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

"I will multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and will give to your offspring all these lands. And in your offspring all the nations of the earth shall be blessed..."

"Your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south, and in you and your offspring shall all the families of the earth be blessed."

In the Old Testament, God's people obeyed the command to be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth through marriage and procreation. Marriage, procreation, and circumcision were the marks of God's people.

The resurrection of Jesus changes what it means to "be fruitful and multiply".

"He was oppressed, and he was afflicted,
yet he opened not his mouth;
like a lamb that is led to the slaughter,
and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent,
so he opened not his mouth.

By oppression and judgment he was taken away; and as for his generation, who considered that he was cut off out of the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of my people?"

"Yet it was the will of the Lord to crush him; he has put him to grief; when his soul makes an offering for guilt, he shall see his offspring; he shall prolong his days; the will of the Lord shall prosper in his hand."

The Kingdom of God is now advanced through Spiritual reproduction

"Sing, O barren one, who did not bear;
break forth into singing and cry aloud,
you who have not been in labor!
For the children of the desolate one will be more
than the children of her who is married," says the Lord."

Let not the foreigner who has joined himself to the Lord say,

"The Lord will surely separate me from his people";
and let not the eunuch say,

"Behold, I am a dry tree."

For thus says the Lord:

"To the eunuchs who keep my Sabbaths,

"To the eunuchs who keep my Sabbaths, who choose the things that please me and hold fast my covenant,

I will give in my house and within my walls a monument and a name better than sons and daughters;
I will give them an everlasting name that shall not be cut off."

"Jesus answered him, 'Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God." "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit..."

"Know then that it is those of faith who are the sons of Abraham. And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, 'In you shall all the nations be blessed."

We are all now complete, not through having a spouse or children, but because in Christ, we are the children of God.

Don't wait to arrive...

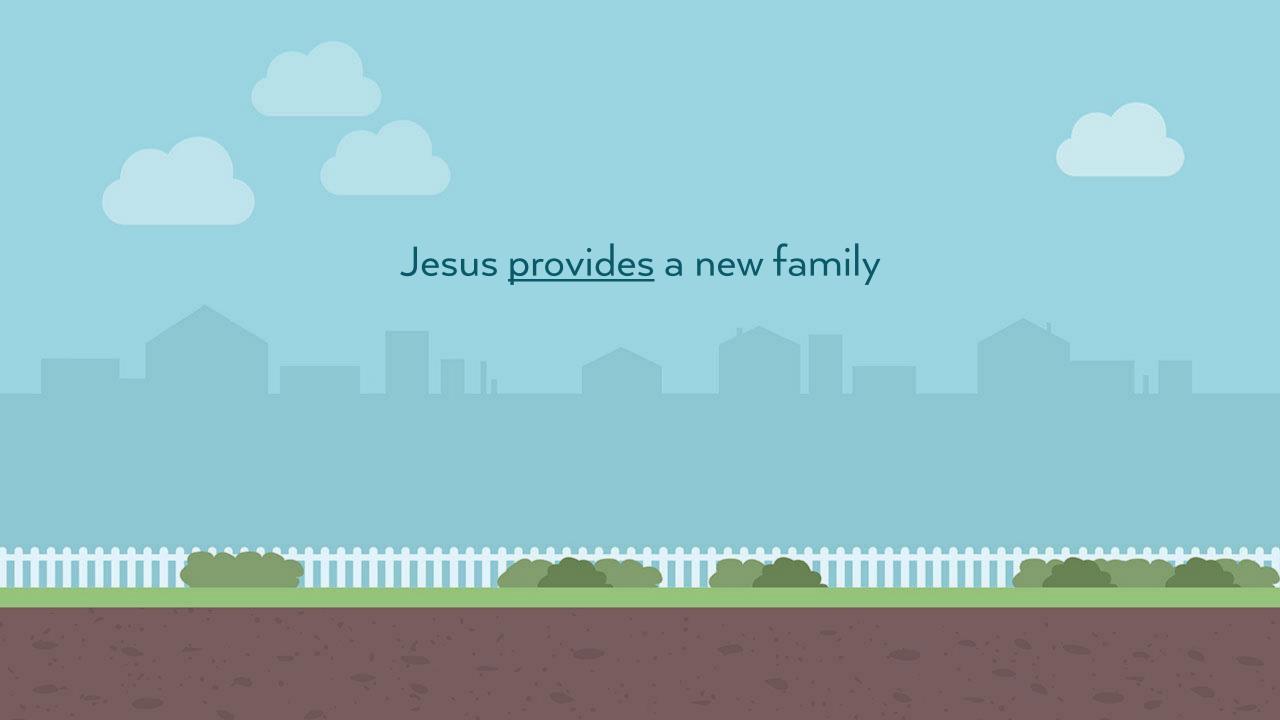


Jesus redefines what it means to be a family.

"While he was still speaking to the people, behold, his mother and his brothers stood outside, asking to speak to him. But he replied to the man who told him, 'Who is my mother, and who are my brothers?' And stretching out his hand toward his disciples, he said, 'Here are my mother and my brothers! For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother."



"Jesus said, 'Truly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or lands, for my sake and for the gospel, who will not receive a hundredfold now in this time, houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions, and in the age to come eternal life."



"I do not write these things to make you ashamed, but to admonish you as my beloved children. For though you have countless guides in Christ, you do not have many fathers. For I became your father in Christ Jesus through the gospel."

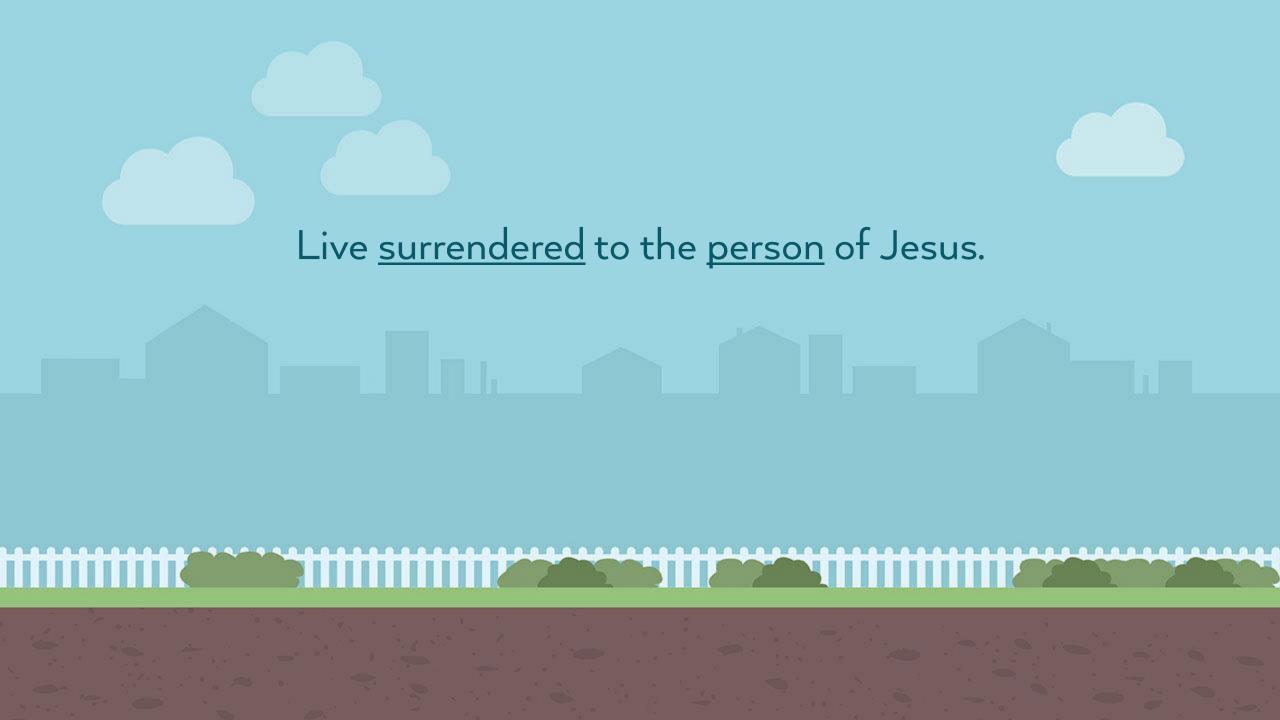
"To Titus, my true child in a common faith:

Grace and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Savior."

"But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons."

"Christ came into the world to call out a people for himself from all the families of the earth and into a new family where single people in Christ are full fledged family members on par with all others, bearing fruit for God and becoming mothers and fathers of the eternal kind."

"If marriage shows us the shape of the gospel, singleness shows us its sufficiency."



The idea that a believer would go wherever Jesus calls him or her to go, be whomever Jesus calls him or her to be, and do whatever Jesus calls him or her to do has nothing to do with whether one is called to missions, and everything to do with who gets to be King.

Live in community with the people of Jesus.

