

OUTLINE ON THE IMPORTANCE OF CONSIDERING MINISTRY TO SINGLE WOMEN IN GENERAL, PARTICULARLY MINISTERING TO THE MATURE WOMAN

Introduction:

The topic: “The importance of considering ministry to single women in general, particularly ministering to the mature woman”

I present this workshop to you from a point of experience, not professionally qualified, but with the help of God trust that it will help in understanding the need of this ministry on general.

I have been a single woman for 11 years and have experienced the lack of ministry to single women in particular. I recall having been part of a church family for years and when I became single, I was left to fend for myself to the point of sitting sole alone in the church pew.

So, having received healing and deliverance from my disappointment and hurt, I am passionately sensitive to the need for this ministry to single women, not only those who have been through divorce but those who have been widowed or have never married.

A Study of [Midlife](#) Single Women

Jennifer A. Moore and H. Lorraine Radtke were especially interested in single women at early midlife, ages 35 through 44. By that age, women are already considered to be behind schedule in finding a spouse and starting a family, and it is becoming increasingly improbable that they will do so.

For their [study](#), published in the *Psychology of Women Quarterly* in 2015, they talked in depth to 12 women from Western Canada who were born between 1965 and 1975, had been single all their lives, had not lived with a romantic partner in the last five years, and were not mothers. The women do not constitute a representative sample; they were recruited informally. All were heterosexual, White (or European and indigenous), and relatively well-educated (they had at least a high-school [education](#)). The results, then, are more suggestive than definitive. Still, the study offers some insights into how some single women think about their lives.

Each interview began with the open-ended question, “Can you tell me something about your life as a single woman?”

If you are a single woman, think about how you would answer that question. (The same question could be asked of single men, so I hope you will think about your answer, too.)

Objective of the elective:

The objective of the workshop is to raise awareness to the fact that there is a group of women who are single and it would appear as if their needs, both spiritual and material is not being recognised by the church

This workshop will look at /or will deal with 3 aspects of the single woman:

1. To raise awareness of the needs of the single woman.
2. To look at some of the causes of singleness.
3. To highlight some of the special needs that single women have.

Session 1

During this session will deal with many mature women in our society who are single and who have very special needs and challenges. Here, we will briefly discuss why these women are single, i.e. the causes of singleness

Who are the mature women in our society who are single?

- **Never married**
- **Widowed**
- **Divorced**
- **Abandoned**

The popular stories of our time do not make it easy for single people to define themselves without referring to [marriage](#). And they make it especially challenging for single women with no kids to discuss their lives without mentioning motherhood or family.

Question for Group Discussion

1. **What are your views about singleness?** To discuss some of the reasons why these women are single.(causes of singleness).
2. **Do you think that it is a problem?**
3. **If so, do you think it is important enough for something to be done about it?**

Session 2

What are the challenges mature single women face?

Women feel intimidated, especially when found in social groups where there is a male presence. In the church, there is a trend to steer away from giving opportunity to the single woman in ministry. Women today, feel somewhat a stigma of being single for various reasons and are therefore vulnerable when found among social groups where there is a male presence (a threat to married women).

Question for Group:

- 1. Do you think that the challenges should be prioritized and why?**
- 2. If so, what would be the ranking. If not, why not?**

Session 3

Does society and in particular, the church, have a responsibility to address this phenomenon and how best to do it?

Question for Group:

- 1. Do you think it is our/the church's problem?**
- 2. Why?**

Conclusion: