

Implications of God's design for us to bear His image in singleness

D1—the heart:

1. God's design calls for ongoing shepherding of our hearts with God's Word to fuel an undistracted devotion to the Lord (1 Cor. 7:35).
2. God's design elevates personal purity and holiness in body and spirit (1 Co. 7:34).

D2—the home:

3. God's design strengthens our commitment to growing in unity, love, and service with those in our home and family.
4. God's design encourages hospitality and ministry in our home (inviting others in).
5. God's design humbles the single woman to seek the wisdom and protection of Christian parents, church leadership (e.g. elders, small group leaders), and/or older women in the church.

D3—ministry:

6. God's design underscores the importance of relationships with the body of Christ, in fellowship, service, and other expressions of the NT's "one anothers." In particular, it keeps smallgroup involvement a priority (John 17:21; Romans 12:5; 1 Corinthians 12:12-27; Ephesians 4:1-6, 11-13; Heb. 10:24-25).
7. God's design challenges us in seasons of singleness to prayerfully and intentionally live out biblical femininity—godliness, holiness, industriousness, purity, a quiet and gentle servant's heart—in every sphere of life.

Implications of God's design for us to bear His image in marriage

D1—the heart:

1. God's design calls for ongoing shepherding our hearts with God's Word to fuel a submissive, respectful, quiet, and gentle spirit towards our husbands, driven by reverence for Christ (Ep. 5:22-33; 1 Pe. 3:1-4).
2. God's design keeps Jesus absolutely at the center of marriage.

D2—the home:

3. God's design sweetens every act of humble service in marriage, whether we are married to a believer or not.
4. For those who are not currently married, God's design excludes marrying or otherwise entering into a close relationship with a man who is NOT in Christ or to whom she would be unwilling to biblically submit.
5. God's design restricts consideration of divorce to only those cases where it's biblically permissible; even at that, it's ONLY a LAST resort after she has exhaustively and earnestly sought restoration.

D3—ministry:

6. God's design underscores the importance of relationships with the body of Christ, in fellowship, service, and other expressions of the NT's "one anothers." In particular, it keeps smallgroup involvement a priority (John 17:21; Romans 12:5; 1 Corinthians 12:12-27; Ephesians 4:1-6, 11-13; Heb. 10:24-25).
7. God's design elevates the purpose and reason for marriage—that others might see a living picture of our great self-giving God.