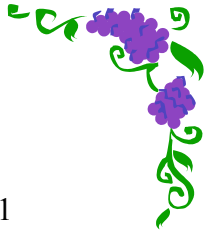


# The Vine Inspiration

March 2007. Vol. 1



*"I am the Vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in Me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from Me, you can do nothing". John 15:5*

## Fresh from the desk of...

This month I dedicated this newsletter to our single Christians. The struggles of living Christian life as a single can be overwhelming and confusing without the proper instruction and help. Take time to go through this newsletter and allow the Lord to speak to you about your single life, your relationship with another, or even your relationship with Him. This is the perfect time in your life to learn how to make Christ (and keep Him) your number one priority. Your singleness is meant to be enjoyed! Even though your emotions may make you feel like it is the loneliest time of your life, it is actually a time of great celebration. Sounds crazy?? I know! But rest assured that as you surrender your single life to the Lord continuously, He will show you exactly what I mean.....



~Righteous Breed, Editor-In-Chief (EIC)~

## Keys to the Kingdom...



**Discerning the "right mate" is a genuine challenge that Christian singles are faced with and even after much prayer and consultation, you inevitably must be capable of discerning whether or not this person is in fact the right mate for you. Here are five (just five) fundamental qualities to look for in a mate. These characteristics will seem extremely evident, but yet they are often overlooked. They are non-negotiable.**

**Committed** – The core of the word committed means "binder" or "pledge;" therefore, a potential mate should be capable of living up to one. A committed person should demonstrate a lifestyle of fidelity in word and in deed. Simply stated, their words should be backed by their actions (Matthew 5:37).

**Compatible** – Compatibility isn't necessarily about having identical personalities, as differences can compliment each other. But it is more about the importance of establishing the essentials. Initially, do you share similar core values? In discovering your mate, a common thread should be your spiritual belief system. The bible states, "Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers?" (II Corinthians 6:14).

**Trustworthy** – Honoring promises is high on my list of requirements in being a person of integrity. A trustworthy mate will seek to respect his words and live up to them (Numbers 30:2). If you've ever been stood up, then you understand where I'm coming from.

**Faithful** – A person who possesses this quality will demonstrate an allegiance towards God, you, and others. In any environment, whether private or social, this person's standards remain stable and consistent. If not, it is likely they will not remain faithful to you. This character quality is a necessity towards building a solid relationship and should not be optional, but mandatory.

**Giving** – This quality is not about giving material gifts, but about selfless behavior (John 3:16). The person who possesses this character quality will be centered on giving of himself and putting others first. This person will demonstrate sensitivity towards you and your needs, and the ability to meet those needs. Most notably, a giver will promote opportunities for your growth, and support you in them. Their delight will be in watching you grow and to support your growth wholeheartedly.

In closing, there is one thought I would like to leave with you. God's plan is to bless you (Jeremiah. 29:11). His plan is to bless you with a mate that is capable of supporting His plans for your life. Choosing a mate of God's design will serve as a catalyst for you to reach your Divine Destiny in Christ Jesus. Many times people subconsciously search for personalities that are on their wavelength and sometimes it takes a while for people to realize they don't fit. If you can discern incompatibility early, it will save a lot of heartache.

By Lisa Townsend

Come visit us Sunday mornings at 11AM and be blessed by the following ministries:



**MARCH**

- 4<sup>th</sup> – Divine Praise
- 11<sup>th</sup> – Righteous Breed
- 18<sup>th</sup> – Blessed Assurance
- 25<sup>th</sup> – Dance Troupe



**STAY TUNED!!!**

**The 4-1-1 on up and coming events and more at Victory Christian Assembly**

**WOMEN'S RETREAT**

Please join the Ladies for a Christ-filled weekend in Greensburg March 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>. For more information, please see Alisa Destefano or Laura Briscoe.

**FAMILY AND FRIENDS WEEKEND**

Come celebrate with VCA as we host our Annual family and Friends weekend, March 30<sup>th</sup> – April 1<sup>st</sup>. For more information, please call Victory Christian Assembly.

## Six Ways to Live as a Satisfied Single

You *can* be content without a significant other. Here are some tips to help you live life to the fullest.

- 1. Connect with God.** Spiritual revival is the first order of business for all singles. Our single years—whether they are few or many—can be a time to connect deeply with God like none other. Like Paul said, it's a time where you can give your "undivided devotion to the Lord" (1 Corinthians 7:35, italics added). Therefore, devote yourself to knowing God by reading, studying, and worshiping Him.
- 2. Connect with Friends.** Being single doesn't mean being alone. Hebrews 10:24-25 says, "And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together...but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching." When you become a Christian by trusting in Christ, you become a part of God's family as well. And in this family you're called both to encourage and be encouraged.
- 3. Commit Yourself to Purity.** In order to live joyfully and contentedly, you must commit your body and mind to the Lord. This is no easy task in our culture. Magazines, television, billboards, "friends," and sometimes even family members will encourage what seems natural to the world: promiscuity, pornography, lust, and affairs. But God loves you too much to let you take a path that leads to pain and loss of dignity. You will surely encounter adversity, but singles can bear this cross with honor and self-respect. See the resources Every Single Man's Battle and Every Single Woman's Battle for direction and encouragement on this subject!
- 4. Live with Passion and Purpose.** What do you love? What moves you? What interests you? What are you waiting for? You need to pursue what you love. Photography, theology, writing, music, languages, building, cooking, dance, medicine, sports...whatever keeps you up late at night or gets you excited is important to recognize and pursue.
- 5. Serve.** Your passion should drive you to serve in some way. When your passion drives you to service, you'll find great purpose in life. Do you enjoy sports? Maybe you could volunteer in a Big Brother or Sister program. Can you cook? Ask your pastor about needs in your church...perhaps you could make meals for families with new babies or someone who has a family member in the hospital. God gives each one of us unique talents and passions for the purpose of glorifying him.
- 6. Exercise Your Mind and Body.** There's great joy in dedicating our minds to studying God's word, but there's also great joy in worshipping him with our bodies. Exercise is a great discipline that gives you the needed energy to study and serve God.

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New Life Ministries has a variety of resources on men, women, and relationships. Call 1-800-NEW-LIFE or visit [www.newlife.com](http://www.newlife.com).

[If you would like to submit an announcement for The Vine Inspiration, please contact me at RBMinistries@excite.com](mailto:RBMinistries@excite.com)