

Local author Ed Houston gives a fresh approach to living a single free lifestyle in his inspiring new book.

"Ed delivers a passionate and inspirational message for any small group or singles ministry"

ED HOUSTON

single and living free



an inspiring companion
for your personal journey

*"We at Kingdom New Covenant Christian Center were privileged to have Ed Houston come in to share with us his very powerful new book **Single and Living Free**. It was something new and fresh for the body of Christ. The testimony impacted the singles as well as those who were married. The parishioners responded with nothing but positive feedback. We were truly blessed."*

Senior Pastor Ted Billingsley
Kingdom New Covenant Christian Center

Available at any bookstore nationwide or at these online retailers:

BARNES & NOBLE

amazon.com.



Interviewed on:



To see Ed sharing his motivation as to why he wrote the book, login to www.edhouston.com
www.singleandlivingfree.com

There is Life as a Christian Single

By Ed Houston, *Single and Living Free*



In my fondest memories, I recall daydreaming of being married to a beautiful woman and being a loving father and good provider. Those daydreams to some extent evolved into life goals from adolescent to adulthood, which gave birth to the ambition and drive to become a success in my life. It had never resonated in my daydreams that one of those status levels I would reach

and maintain for a good part of my early adult life would be labeled as “Christian and single.” I contemplated those two words from a secular perspective and wondered if people would interpret it to mean being a “lonely loser.” The fact that God could really stand for something in my life as a Christian single in today’s world was a big struggle in my adult life.

After high school I found myself at an entry-level job at a local real-estate-related company and, within short order, I had my eye on climbing the corporate ladder. As an empowered young adult, I gave into society’s accepted practice of variety dating. In my vain effort, I was looking for that right girl who would fit my picture and idea of corporate success. Within these gradual time frames, I made a subconscious statement to God: *“I appreciate all the help but I can handle life from here on out.”* Positive and motivational resources and “the universe will provide” sort of thinking became my new self-made religion. God became more of a mere abstract of thought used only when beneficial in my life. Nearly twenty years passed and I climbed that corporate ladder. Outwardly, some would have applauded my success; however, deep inside I suffered the realization that my self-made religion was failing me miserably. Relationships were deteriorating and aspirations of money and corporate drive started to take a backseat to emptiness. I knew there had to be more in life.

The very statement I made in my earlier years, choosing to exclude God from my life became a regretful mistake. I was reminded of a parallel biblical story of the prodigal son in Luke 15:11–31. The story ends by the loving father receiving his lost son back, even though it was the son’s choice to leave home. I wanted my heavenly father back in my life. I wanted a relationship with God, not a religious exercise, no

tricks or games; I refused to settle for less than a true God experience. While I was alone one night at home, with tears streaming down my face, I summoned God with a new statement, not with vanity, but with a pure, open and honest heart. I gave my plea for forgiveness and asked for help. The freedom that the Bible talks about, this liberty the Bible speaks about, this life fulfillment the Bible describes — I wanted to experience it now! That night was probably the best night’s sleep I had in years. From that day I became a faithful Christian single man, ready to follow and serve God in any way possible.

I didn’t fully understand how to live a Christian single life. In many churches I visited, the sermons were primarily focused toward families, far from addressing the challenges and needs of adult singles today. However, God is faithful to his word. Each day as I opened up my heart to God in prayer, weekly bible studies along with a strong commitment at a local Church body, the single journey began to take on new shape and excitement. God started to reveal through biblical principles, a

...labeled as “Christian and single.” I contemplated those two words from a secular perspective and wondered if people would interpret it to mean being a “lonely loser.”

practical step-by-step process on how to live a Christian single life in a less than Christian-friendly world. He first allowed me to recognize that He loves me and that there is a set purpose and destiny in store for my life, no matter the challenges and disappointments I had experienced, once I had the correct attitude and affirmation. I digested simple yet powerful biblical stories from the great patriarchs like King David, Moses and the great leader Joshua. I gained a creative personalized perspective on creating goals in five main areas: Personal, Spiritual, Physical, Relational and Financial. These were personalized with benefits along with journaling. This new approach allowed me to face bad habits, negative strongholds that were holding my life down. I found a new freedom for single living; I didn’t just have to sit and mope around or listen to those in relationships feel sorry for my single status. I started to engage new friendships, went traveling, started new hobbies and expanded my relationship with God. I found my life coming into balance, and living whole is the best place to be along with integrity in God.