

I SAY THEREFORE
TO THE UNMARRIED
AND WIDOWS, IT IS
GOOD FOR THEM IF
THEY ABIDE EVEN
AS I. PAUL, I COR. 7:8

SINGLE VOICES

A LETTER FROM THE EAST

Anonymous

Who would want to write an article on the single woman? It would be like being branded with a scarlet "S"! Our Church places a great emphasis on marriage and homelife. In terms of an ideal of personal happiness, doctrinal adherence, and societal cohesiveness, this viewpoint has its advantages. However, there are other parts of the equation which merit thoughtful evaluation: what kind of person are you? *Why* are you doing what-ever-it-is you are doing? I have seen many unhappy, frustrated and dull people and enough happy, productive and interesting people to know that similar circumstances do not determine similar results. There are so many challenges to living in today's world that we must put our feet firmly in the present and not over-reference ourselves to the past or the hereafter! We must strengthen our intellectual analysis, our spiritual guidance, and get to the actual doing — and find a measure of peace in all of this.

A LETTER HOME*

Maryruth Bracy

Dear Mom and Dad,

Your phone call last night left me feeling strangely orphaned, as if you had placed me on some foreign doorstep. I know you thought that Tom and I would get married, and that you can't understand why I've quit my job. Last year you questioned my going on to graduate school; last night you wanted me to return for more schooling in Utah: is it that you'd rather have me in school there than struggling out here?

My dear sweet parents, underneath all that you said was one question, "Why aren't you married?" I'm afraid I just don't know all the reasons. Somewhere along the way decisions were made and the results of these decisions have led me to where I am. I guess the best reason is that the right man has not come along at the right time. Can you understand that if I married Tom without the love I know I am capable of giving, I would be cheating both of us?

*A composite letter representing the feelings of twelve single sisters, 25 and over, across the country.