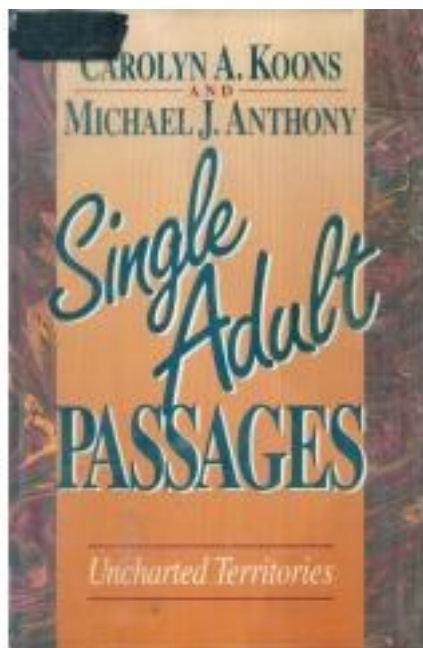


Single Adult Passages: Uncharted Territories



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When the dream to write a significant book on single adults began, little did we realize the challenges that would surface. The phenomenon of single adults today is so common and research is so limited, we felt as though we had set sail into uncharted waters. As we continued our project, the "uncharted waters" feeling returned again and again.

We do not feel that there are predictable stages or passages for single adults. And we do not intend to force singles into unrealistic or nonexistent modes simply to foster research data. So little is known about the single adult. The underlying reality is that we have all been single at one stage of life or another. Those who responded to our survey were single at the time the survey was conducted. Some had never been married. Others were separated, divorced, or widowed. Traditionally we have tended to classify all singles in one category, but the singles who have never married differ in some major respects from those who once were married and through often tragic circumstances now find themselves single again.

Single Adult Passages is the first indepth historical and sociological study of Christian singles in America. We assume that the attitude of Christian singles toward singleness, as well as their behavior, is influenced by their spiritual life and the teachings of the church. Comprehensive in scope, our survey is a valuable resource tool for Christian singles themselves, as well as for those who minister to single adults.

We surveyed almost 1400 singles of all ages, of various educational levels, in a wide variety of occupations, and living in forty different states. For the record, 1363 singles returned usable surveys. However, 20 singles skipped checking the gender box; the female category was checked by 884 while 459 checked the male category. Therefore, for questions related to gender, we could use only 1343 responses. This will explain the occasional variance in survey totals. We have also interviewed hundreds of singles and included data from the interviews in the book.

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