

WHEN PEACE BEATS PARTNERSHIP

A Family Life Ministry Wake-Up Call

By Ishmael Ali

Editor's Note

This article responds to current discussions on women, relationships, and singlehood, including a December 2025 cultural commentary published on The Body Optimist. The reflections below draw on verified research, reputable journalism, Scripture (NKJV), and official Seventh-day Adventist denominational statements.

A quiet alarm is ringing across the dating world.

Across cultures and communities, many women are deciding that peace is better than partnership. Not because they reject commitment, but because too many relationships feel unequal, emotionally draining, or unsafe.

Journalist Léa Michel describes a growing number of women choosing singlehood when partnership no longer promises mutual care or emotional security. Cultural writers have named this posture heteropessimism, a loss of confidence that romantic relationships will lead to shared flourishing.

While cultural language varies, the underlying shift is measurable. The Pew Research Center reports that in 2023, 42 percent of U.S. adults were not living with a romantic partner, reflecting long-term changes in how adults form and sustain relationships.

If the church keeps silent, we do more than avoid culture wars.

We abandon people to navigate intimacy without discipleship. We normalize isolation. And we miss a sacred opportunity to model covenant love that is safe, joyful, and faithful.

Public reporting continues to warn that loneliness and social disconnection are rising, alongside declining participation in community institutions, including congregations. Silence today can mean fewer healthy marriages tomorrow, more fragile homes, and a generation that rarely sees covenant love lived out with honor and joy.

If we do not teach covenant with courage,

culture will teach companionship without commitment.

Family Life Ministry must answer with truth and tenderness.

Scripture speaks clearly and compassionately.

“Submitting to one another in the fear of God.”

(Ephesians 5:21, NKJV)

“Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her.”

(Ephesians 5:25, NKJV)

“God sets the solitary in families.”

(Psalm 68:6, NKJV)

Biblical covenant is not domination.

It is not neglect.

It is not silence.

It is mutuality.

It is responsibility.

It is love shaped by service and sacrifice.

FAMILY LIFE MINISTRY ACTION STEPS

Teach covenant clearly

Mutual honor, shared responsibility, emotional safety, and spiritual leadership expressed through service.

Disciple men intentionally

Maturity, communication, faithfulness, gentleness, and consistent responsibility in the home.

Strengthen premarital preparation

Mentoring, conflict-resolution skills, financial expectations, boundaries, and shared workload realities.

Build marriage mentoring

Seasoned couples walking alongside younger couples with regular, intentional check-ins.

Make safety non-negotiable

The church must never minimize coercion, control, or abuse. Scripture and denominational policy call for vigilance, protection, and accountability.

Honor singles fully

Belonging, leadership, mission, and intergenerational community must be visible and practiced.

RESOURCES & VERIFICATION:

Pew Research Center. Share of U.S. adults living without a romantic partner has ticked down in recent years (January 8, 2025).

Associated Press. Efforts to reconnect Americans face challenges in a lonely time (December 2025).

Seresin, A. On Heteropessimism. *The New Inquiry* (October 9, 2019).

General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. Statement on Abuse and Family Violence (1995).

Seventh-day Adventist Church, Adventist Family Ministries. Statement on Family Violence.

Cultural commentary sources are cited for context; research and denominational statements provide authoritative guidance.