



Group Project
[Why Jesus Can't be Your Boyfriend]

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EVERY GROUP PROJECT



The Christian walk is the
quintessential group project -
with real world implications

We become a....

**Different Kind of
Friend**

**Different Kind of
Lover**



Genesis 1:27-28

So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. ²⁸ Then God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”

The world has
always been
ours to win

1. God
2. Family
3. Friends
4. Work
5. Possessions

1. God

2. Family, Friends, Work, Possessions



In the New
Testament there are
59 “one to another”
or “one another”
admonitions



Ephesians 4:32

“And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.




Romans 12:10-11

Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another; ¹¹ not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord;


“Just me and God”?

Salvation is a personal gift
Sanctification is a group effort



John 17:20-21 [a]

“I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; 21 that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me.”



John 17:22-23 [b]

“And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one: 23 I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me.”

Love for God is
measured in
relationships



John 13:35

By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.



Different Kind of Friend

A Real Appreciation

Layers of the Human Experience



The Crowd

Classmates/Cohort/Coworkers/Church Family

Friends

Extended family & close friends

Immediate family

Children

Spouse

Can God use me as a single person?

Can God grow me as a single person?



Gary Thomas, *Sacred Marriage*

Any situation that calls me to confront my selfishness has enormous spiritual value... [marriage] is also a means by which God can redeem us in other areas of character. I found a tremendous amount of immaturity within me that my marriage directly confronted.

We can't become good
at what we don't value

In fact, there is much in Christian history that has unofficially (and at times blatantly) considered married believers to be second-class Christians who compromised their integrity or were too weak to contain their sexual urges. Augustine through he was being charitable when he wrote, referring to the intent to procreate, “Marital intercourse makes something good out of the evil of lust.” Scripture may be infallible, but Christian history isn’t, and unfounded prejudices do exist.

Although Christianity was born out of Judaism, a religion in which marriage was considered a religious duty [...] it wasn't long until married believers were scarcely an afterthought during centuries of writing on spiritual theology (studying how Christian believers grow in their faith, learn to pray, and draw closer to God). Most of the Christian classics were written *by* monks and nuns *for* monks and nuns... the thought of pursuing God *through* marriage wasn't really given serious consideration; instead, the emphasis was largely on pursuing God *in spite of* marriage.

“Jesus is my boyfriend/husband”??

~~Genesis 1 & 2~~

Spiritual Joy

You will show me the path of life;
In Your presence is fullness of joy;
At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore. Psalm 16:11

Platonic Happiness

Jonathan & David - 1 Samuel
Paul - Epistles

Sexual Pleasure
Song of Solomon



FORTUNE

HEALTH • MENTAL HEALTH

Study Finds That Half of Americans — Especially

HEALTH • MENTAL HEALTH

Study Finds That Half of Americans — Especially Young People — Feel Lonely

By [ARIC JENKINS](#) Updated: May 1, 2018 1:07 PM ET

A new study has found that nearly half of all [Americans feel lonely](#) — with young people in particular experiencing the brunt on the pain.

The rise of living alone and loneliness in history

K. D. M. Snell 

Pages 2-28 | Published online: 06 Jan 2017

This article connects two current debates: the rise of single-person households or of 'solitaries', and the so-called 'loneliness epidemic'. It raises questions about how these are associated, via social-science literature on loneliness as a social, contextual and subjective experience, and findings in that literature about the relevance of lone-person households. The article is concerned to explore the history of living alone as a form of family structure, via analysis of European, North American and Japanese pre-industrial and industrial listings of inhabitants,

Many pre-industrial settlements had no single-person households, and the average was around 5 percent of households. The current western proportions of such households (e.g. 31 percent in the UK) are wholly unprecedented historically, even reaching to 60 percent or more of households in some modern European and North American cities. The discussion examines this trend – which has very wide ramifications – and raises issues about its relevance for modern problems of loneliness as a social and welfare concern.

Cuddle Cafes Are Becoming Popular in Japan



So what is occurring is a consumer culture that allows individuals to compartmentalize the needs that relationships typically fulfill "" intimacy, sexuality, conversation, etc. "" by spending money. In other words: there are some very funny things going on in Japan.

A simi
servic
until 2
anothe

it wasn't
until 2012 that a physical establishment opened its doors to those needing the warmth of another body. Japan's cuddle café, advertised as a "co-sleeping specialty shop," allows customers to sleep with (*and only sleep*) with beautiful women.

customers to sleep with (*and only sleep*) with beautiful women. The menu is extensive and
admission
up to 10 ho
fetching ab
napping, cu
sleeps with

Now, you don't have to travel to Japan to find a cuddle cafe. [Shops have opened up](#) in Western cities like New York, Vancouver and Portland. While many react to the cuddle cafes with distaste, comparing them to prostitution, the shops maintain that no sexual acts will be tolerated. Perhaps prostitution isn't the best comparison. This industry is about assembly line relationships, feeding the need for human interaction one bit at a time.



Book a therapeutic cuddle

Cuddlist: VProud Forbes Video

Benefits of Cuddling

Our society is suffering from chronic social isolation and touch deprivation and, to make matters worse, we have also sexualized touch. Touch deprivation is linked to anxiety, depression, aggression, stress, violent behavior, impulsiveness, low job performance, poor relational skills, and so on.

Book a Cuddle Session

Each

professional cuddler is there to listen, comfort, console, encourage, and journey with you throughout every cuddle.

Become a Cert

WEIRD

Western, Educated, Industrialized,
Rich, Democratic [societies]

What God pronounced
as “not good,”
we’ve declared “good.”

Neither promiscuity nor sexual
repression (protracted singleness)
honors our Creator's intent.

Furthermore, neither situation makes for a compelling witness for God or His Gospel.

God created us to enjoy
healthy sexual expression
(i.e. marriage)



Proverbs 5:18

Let your fountain be blessed, And
rejoice with the wife of your *youth*.

For Getting Married Young



Ad



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The Case for Getting Married Young

It can be beneficial to make marriage the cornerstone, rather than the capstone, of your adult life.

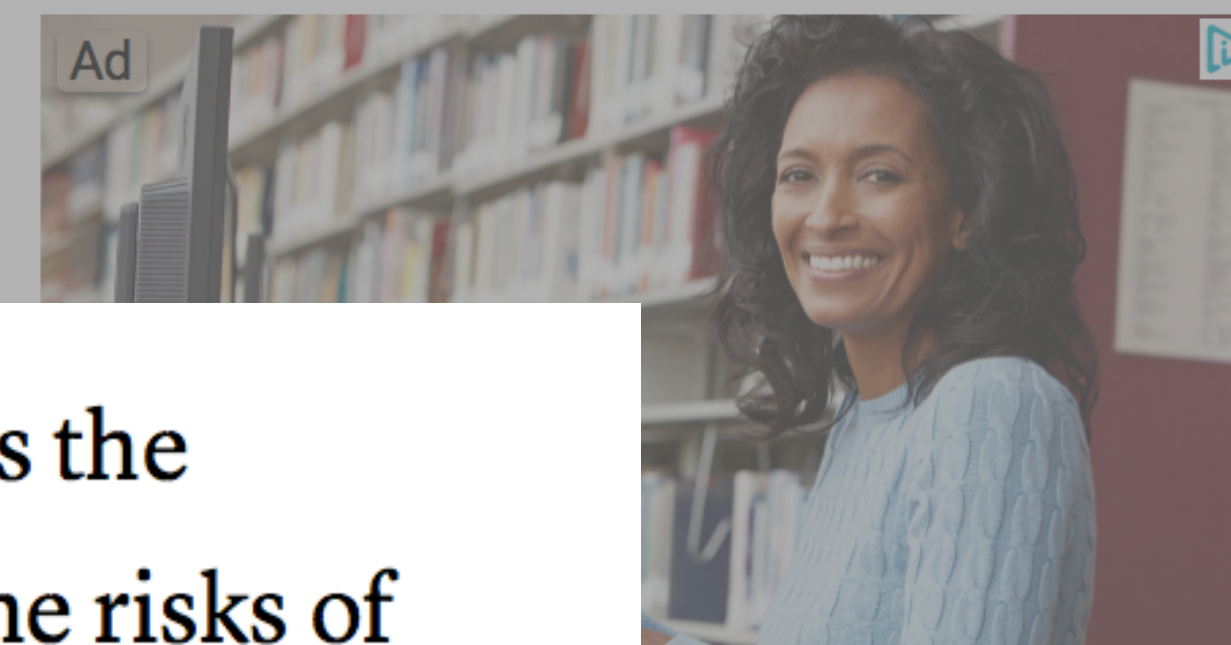
KAREN SWALLOW PRIOR | **MAR 22, 2013** | **SEXES**

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A compelling case can be made for the advantages, particularly for college-educated women, of delaying marriage until after the mid-twenties, as Eleanor Barkhorn recently wrote here. As a math-phobic English professor, I'm not one to wrestle with statistics, but I believe a robust case can be made, alternatively, for young marriage


The Case for Getting Married Young



[New research](#) from Knot Yet, a project that explores the benefits and costs of delayed marriage in America, points to some of the risks of waiting so long to marry.

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A compelling story of an educated woman who wrestles with the challenges of young marriage


Unmarried twenty-somethings are more likely to be depressed, drink excessively, and report lower levels of satisfaction than their married counterparts. For example 35 percent of unmarried men say they are "highly satisfied" with their lives compared to 52 percent of married men; among the women that report being "highly satisfied" with their lives, 29 percent are cohabitating, 33 percent are single, and 47 percent are married.

There are costs to delaying marriage, a phenomenon that has reached a new

The Case for Getting

Young adults are taking longer to finish their education and stabilize their work lives. Culturally, young adults have increasingly come to see marriage as a "capstone" rather than a "cornerstone"—that is, something they do after they have all their other ducks in a row, rather than a foundation for launching into adulthood and parenthood.

Ad



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A compelling case can be made for educated women, of delaying marriage. Barkhorn recently [wrote](#) here about how to wrestle with statistics, but I believe in young marriage.

Marriage actually works best as a formative institution, not an institution you enter once you think you're fully formed. We learn marriage, just as we learn language, and to the teachable, some lessons just come easier earlier in life.

There are costs to delaying marriage, a phenomenon that has reached a new

The Case for Getting Married Young



Interestingly, in a 2009 [report](#), sociologist Mark Regnerus found that much of the pressure to delay marriage comes from parents who encourage their children to finish their education before marrying. One student told him that her parents "want my full attention on grades and school." But such advice reflects an outdated reality, one in which a college degree was almost a guarantee of a good job that would be held for a lifetime. This is no longer the case. Furthermore, with so many students graduating from college with knee-buckling debt, they have worse than nothing to bring into a marriage. Indeed, prolonged singledom has become a rolling stone, gathering up debt and offspring that, we can imagine, will manifest themselves in years to come in more broken, or never-realized, marriages.

young marriage.

There are costs to delaying marriage, a phenomenon that has reached a new

The Case for Getting Married Young

It can be beneficial to make marriage the cornerstone, rather than the capstone, of your adult life.



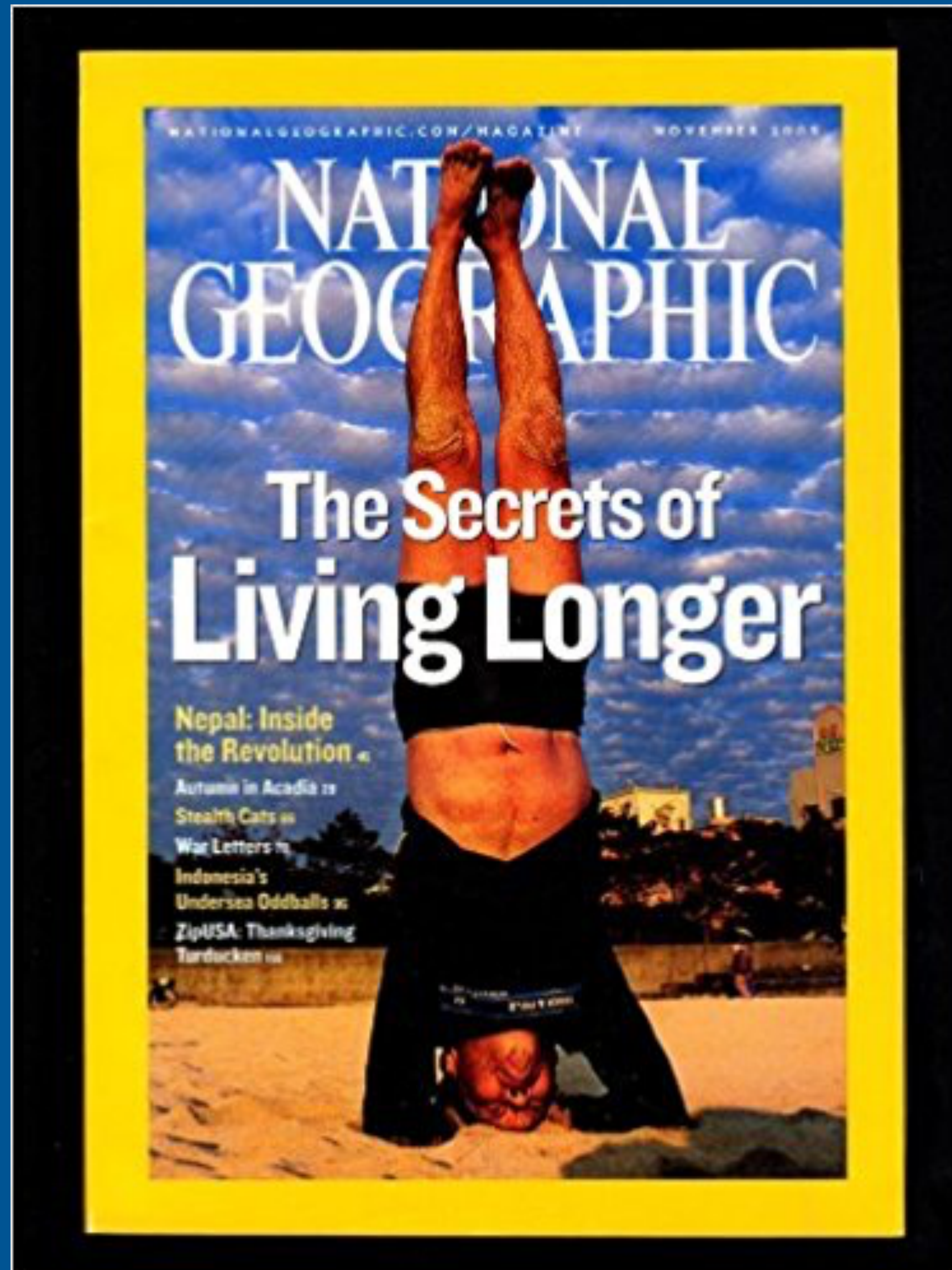
Looking back over a marriage of nearly three decades, I am thankful that I married before going down that road. Now as a college-educated, doctorate-holding woman, I can attest that marrying young (at age 19) was most beneficial: to me, to my husband, and to the longevity of our marriage. Our achievements have come, I am convinced, not despite our young marriage, but because of it.

educated women, of delaying marriage until after the mid-twenties, as Eleanor Barkhorn recently [wrote](#) here. As a math-phobic English professor, I'm not one to wrestle with statistics, but I believe a robust case can be made, alternatively, for young marriage.

There are costs to delaying marriage, a phenomenon that has reached a new

Your college experience can
offer you academics, campus
ministry opportunities,
AND love.

National Geographic,
November 2005



Blue Zones

God's Blueprint for Human Flourishing

Prayer is not so much,
“Lord, is _____ your will?”

but rather,

“Jesus, show me how to do _____ well.”

God's blessings are
baked into
His blueprint

Caleb, Joshua, and “marital” Canaan

Holistic discipleship entails modeling
for and teaching others to eagerly
embrace becoming husbands and
wives, fathers and mothers



Different Kind of Lover



Art by sevelletheartist.com

OCT 2

Late to Potluck: The dating predicament of 30+ year-old single Christians. And what to do about it.



Art by agatanowicka.com

FEB 14

The Helpmeet Shortage: Why telling Christian singles God's love is enough, isn't enough.

The Christian walk is the
quintessential group project -
with real world implications

We become a....

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