

## Today's Forgotten Majority within The Church: "Singles"

The modern church seems to have almost forgotten 'singles' who now make up the majority of congregants in the West. On the one hand, the Old Testament indicates that being single was rare. On the other hand, the New Testament teaches more positively about being single. By developing a theology of singleness from both the Old and New Testaments, this workshop aims to communicate a biblical perspective of celibacy for the church today.

**Kevin Conway** completed his PhD in Biblical Studies at the University of Cambridge. He has taught at various settings around Eastern Europe and Russia and spent most of that time teaching at the Visoko Evandeosko Teološko Učilište in Osijek, Croatia. For the last several years, he has served with the para-church ministry, Cru - Eastern Europe, as a team leader and teacher for their staff in Eastern Europe and Russia. He was also the Senior Pastor of Danube International Church in Budapest, Hungary. Before going into full-time vocational ministry, he worked for several years in the computer and finance industries with large corporations like IBM and GE. While still in college, he wrestled for the USA and was a finalist on the 1980 Olympic team. Kevin has been a follower of Christ since 1979 and is a citizen of both the USA and Ireland. He has been married to his lovely Croatian wife, Rahela, for 25 years and they have been blessed with three beautiful children on earth – Abi (23), Joseph (21), and Kara (14).

- I. Singleness/Celibacy & marriage trends in society and the church
- II. Old Testament perspective of singleness
  - A. Why it was rare in the Old testament
- II. New Testament perspective of singleness
  - A. Why it was viewed more positively in the New Testament
    1. The teaching of 2 singles
      - a. Jesus (Matt. 19)
      - b. Paul (1 Cor. 7)
    2. Is singleness/marriage a gift?
- III. Spiritual v. physical multiplication
- IV. Communicating a 'biblical theology' of celibacy in the church today