

Questions

1. Where are you most tempted to believe that a change in your circumstances would finally bring you contentment?
2. How does comparison steal contentment in your current season of life?
3. What would it look like for you to faithfully serve God where He has presently assigned you?
4. How does Jesus' perfect contentment and faithfulness encourage you in your own struggles with dissatisfaction or unmet desires?
5. How can God's faithfulness to you shape the way you respond to difficult people or difficult circumstances?
6. What is one relationship where God may be calling you to take a step toward greater faithfulness, reconciliation, or perseverance?
7. How can the truth that Christ never abandons His people give you hope for seasons of relational disappointment, conflict, or hurt?

Need prayer? Someone will be up front by the piano to pray with you after the 1st & 2nd services.

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1 Corinthians

MESSY CHURCH MIGHTY CHRIST

Contented Singleness & Covenant Faithfulness

1 Corinthians 7:7-16

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In 1 Corinthians 7:7–16, Paul presents two callings—singleness and marriage—so that believers will trust God's grace and live faithfully where He has assigned them.

1 Cor 7:17 ("Let each one live his life in the situation the Lord assigned when God called him.") is the controlling principle for all of chapter 7.

The Calling to Contented Singleness (vv. 7-9)

"7 ...each has his own gift from God."

- Both marriage and singleness are gifts from God. They are not spiritual superpowers, but callings God may assign in particular seasons.
- When Paul speaks of a "gift," he is normally referring to grace-enabled capacities for faithful living and service.

"Spiritual gifts are meant to build up the body of Christ. Obviously, singles are to strengthen the church too—but not by virtue of being single. Rather, singles do it by exercising their spiritual gifts, just like everyone else." — Jayne Clark

The gift is God's gracious provision to faithfully live where He has assigned you.

God's design for marriage is permanence.

One of the quickest ways to lose contentment is comparison. Comparison has a way of convincing us that the better life is always found somewhere else.

Marriage isn't what happens to less spiritually mature single Christians.

Verses 12-16

Becoming a Christian isn't a justification for abandoning your unbelieving spouse.

The exception in verse 15: If the unbelieving spouse abandons the marriage, the believing spouse "is not bound."

If a spouse who professes Christ abandons the marriage, Matthew 18 and the process of church discipline must be enacted.

The Calling to Covenant Faithfulness (vv. 10-16)

Two situations in verses 10-16

1. In verses 10-11, it is marriage between two believers.
2. In verses 12-16, it is marriage between a believer and an unbeliever.

Verses 10-11

In that day "to leave" was slang for "divorce." Meaning, "to leave" in verse 10 and "divorce" in verse 11 refer to the same thing.

In 1 Cor 7:10-11, Paul has in mind what Jesus taught on the permanence of marriage in passages like Matthew 19 (1-10) and Mark 10 (2-12).