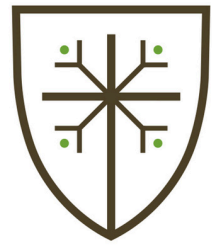


# Lacking Nothing

A Sermon Series on 1 Corinthians

# SERMON NOTES



June 29, 2025

## SERMON INFO

### TITLE

"Singleness and Marriage"

### PREACHER

Rev. Tim Frickenschmidt

### TEXTS

Isaiah 53:3-7

1 Corinthians 7

Matthew 6:25-34

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What unique opportunities do you see in the station God has placed you - whether single, married, widowed, or divorced - to grow in intimacy with God and serve his kingdom purposes?

## SERMON IN SUMMARY

This week, Tim began with the question, "Why are you married or why are you single?" While Paul's letter was addressed to a specific church and a particular question they asked of him, it was also written for us and our life in Christ. Paul presents a counter liturgy to a world that is always in flux, much like that presented by the three-fold vow of the Benedictines of stability, conversion, and obedience.

### Stability

The Corinthians Paul was writing were influenced by a world that held a pagan, dualistic view of the body – at best, it was simply a shell for the soul. At worst, the flesh was evil and needed to be overcome. They disdained the body and this was the root of the question they ask of Paul, saying it is not good for a man to touch a woman since all flesh is corrupt and must be put off. In his response, Paul uses the word "remain" repeatedly, to all those he addresses. To the single person, he exhorts them to remain in their singleness because intimacy with the Lord is better than being married. Sexual love is simply a taste and encouragement towards greater intimacy with God, not an end in and of itself. He urges stability in whatever station God has called each person.

In order to find stability though, some things may have to change, specifically, putting ourselves in the role of moral arbiter.

### Conversion

False teachings will always destabilize us. So, when confronted with teachings and ways of living that seem to uproot and destabilize, we have to ask "to what does this ultimately lead?" Does it lead to greater peace and contentment? False teaching puts us in the position of judge of truth instead of hearers of truth. We decide what is good and evil for ourselves. When that happens, chaos always follows because it is just our word no longer anchored in Christ and his word. A common strategy of the world is to change everything outside of us in order to ignore what is going on within us. But the greatest change, the greatest conversion we all need is within us.

### Obedience

If your soul is touched by God's grace, you will be able to do the impossible. We are changed into people who can obey as Jesus obeyed, enduring and embracing our calling without protest, complaint, or grumble. Jesus remained on the cross in order that we might have the power to obey God's call in remaining where he has placed us.

To those who are single, obey God's call to singleness and take advantage of the opportunities it affords you to do kingdom work. To those who are married, invite single Christians into your home and family life as part of the household of God doing life together. Through Christ we all are able to remain and faithfully follow God.

Finally, we still live in "this present distress" as Paul says. We must all adjust our lives to the present kingdom needs and trust in God's grace to meet those needs in and through the stations to which he has called each person.