

John 17:16-17

Goal: Recognize that faith allows us to be content and seize opportunity rather than seeking the next thing.

Have you ever been lonely?

Some of us are truly loners, but for most of us, that’s not the case. We were created for relationships. That does not mean that meaningful relationships must be romantic. Regardless, our society presses people to seek and find romance and ties this relationship status to how we define happiness. We’ve even gone so far as to create ways to have the benefits of committed relationships without obligations that come with commitment. Dating apps and websites have been created to facilitate all kinds of encounters from casual hook-ups to serious dating. Media and popular culture have inundated us with information on how to be “successful” at whatever type of relationship status we are seeking.

Two problems come from this pressure. First, a change in relationship status does not automatically mean bliss. We must recognize that the happiness we see in others may not be as simple as it appears. There may have been a lot of work that has gone into achieving happiness. Second, while we over focus on what could be, we often miss out on opportunities that could bring us a great deal of gratitude and purpose for our lives. The answer to combat the societal pressure towards marriage is contentment.

None of this is to say that marriage is bad. Quite the opposite is true! Regardless, if we could find a way to settle into life as we find ourselves and engage our faith, we’d likely find ourselves far less dissatisfied in life.

To the Book

1. **Read 1Corinthians 7:8-9.** Paul had addressed various issues in the church and moved to answering questions about marriage. He addresses sex and marriage from a few different angles. In this first passage, he deals with a few categories of single people. While there are other categories, Paul is addressing people who are sexually experienced. The idea is that if you have experience and going without causes struggles, then get married and go about it the right way.
2. **Read vv. 32-34.** Paul compares the obligations of married people versus single people. The bottom line is that single people and married people have different priorities. Both sets of people are doing what they should as Paul explains their obligations, but the demands on each are different with single people have more freedom.
3. **Read v. 35.** Paul gets to his reasoning. Freedom leads to opportunity.

Marriage is good. Singleness is also good. If you are single, don’t be so focused on becoming married that you miss the benefits of being single. Married people no longer have those benefits. Be content!

Family Night Big Idea

Being content is a choice.

Discussion: Read Philippians 4:11

- **Elementary School** – Ask, “We need some things & want others. Why is it hard to be happy with only the things we need?”
- **Middle/ High School** – Ask, “Why do you think so many teens want a boyfriend/girlfriend? Is there more or less stress for those that do?”

Prayer

"Father, help us be satisfied without making life complicated. Amen."

Velocity (Middle and High School Students)

Velocity: Meet at the church this Wednesday, Feb. 15th.

Gravity: No Gravity this Sunday

Today’s Songs

Great Things.....Phil Wickham

Holy Holy Holy.....Hymn

Death Was Arrested.....North Point

Look Up Lodge Registration

Register in KidsJAM with Ms. Amy starting today. Camp is July 23-26 for current 3rd – 5th Graders. First deposit is due March 26 and it will be first come, first serve as there are only 15 spots available. Must register in person not online.

2022 Giving Statements

Statements have been mailed.

Building Progress

As you can tell, we are close to the finish line. We are waiting on the kitchen to be remodeled, lobby furniture to be delivered and flooring to go down in the kitchen and Community Room. Thank you all for your support and generosity to make this happen! We are so excited to start using our new space. We will announce the date of an Open House in the near future.

Baptism Service

Our next Baptism Service is February 26th.