

**Series:** By Design

**Sermon:** God's Design for Singleness

**Scripture:** Ephesians 5, 1 Corinthians 7, Matthew 19, and Psalm 73

**Teacher:** Bob Cargo

**Date:** August 21, 2022

**Ephesians 5: 25 & 32 NIV 84**

*25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her.*

*32 This is a profound mystery--but I am talking about Christ and the church.*

**1 Corinthians 7:1, 7-8, 28 NIV 84**

*1 Now for the matters you wrote about: It is good for a man not to marry.*

*7 I wish that all men were as I am. But each man has his own gift from God; one has this gift, another has that. 8 Now to the unmarried and the widows I say: It is good for them to stay unmarried, as I am.*

*28 But if you do marry, you have not sinned; and if a virgin marries, she has not sinned. But those who marry will face many troubles in this life, and I want to spare you this.*

“Your little Kingdom of one cannot compete with the glory of the kingdom of God, which is yours by grace and grace alone. You and I are kingdom oriented. We are always in pursuit of and in service to some kind of kingdom. We are either living in allegiance to the King of kings, celebrating our welcome into his kingdom of glory and grace, or we are anointing ourselves as kings and working to set up our own little kingdoms of one. Here is what is important for us to understand. God didn't give us his grace in order to make our little claustrophobic kingdoms of one work, but to invite us to a much, much better kingdom. We think we know what is best for us, but we don't. We think we are able to rule our own lives, but we aren't. We set our hearts on things that we think will make us happy, but they won't. We think that we can defend ourselves against temptation, but by ourselves we can't. Every human being is in need of a king. All human beings need the rescue, forgiveness, justice, mercy, refuge, and protection that they are unable to give themselves.”

*New Morning Mercies, Paul David Tripp*

**Main Idea**

We become empty and distraught in whatever condition of life we find ourselves regarding marriage, singleness, and sexuality, if we make those things our primary identity, calling or source of happiness.

The point of life is not singleness or marriage. It is to be satisfied with the love of Jesus, to live in community with the family of God, and to serve God by seeking the good of other people.

## **CALLING COMMUNITY CONTENTMENT**

**CALLING** – Both marriage and singleness are a gift and a calling to an unselfish life of service.

“Singleness, like marriage, is a good thing. It needs to be received appropriately and held in a biblical perspective, as does marriage. When we honor it, as God intends us to, as a good gift, then we won’t presume it needs some spiritual superpower to make it bearable.” *Seven Myths about Singleness* by Sam Allberry

“The underlying problem is not with singleness, but with selfishness...the issue is what singleness is being used for...the issue is not the state of marriage or the state of singleness. Both are gifts. The issue is our heart and what is motivating us.”  
*Seven Myths about Singleness* by Sam Allberry

**COMMUNITY** – Whether single or married, we are to live life in community with the family of God.

### **Romans 12:13-16 NIV 84**

<sup>13</sup> Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality. <sup>14</sup> Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. <sup>15</sup> Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. <sup>16</sup> Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.

### **1 Corinthians 12:12 NIV 84**

<sup>12</sup> The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body. So it is with Christ.

### **Mark 3:33-35 NIV 84**

<sup>33</sup> "Who are my mother and my brothers?" he asked. <sup>34</sup> Then he looked at those seated in a circle around him and said, "Here are my mother and my brothers!" <sup>35</sup> Whoever does God's will is my brother and sister and mother."

**CONTENTMENT** – Our true and deepest contentment can only be found in God Himself.

**Psalm 73: 25-26 NIV 84**

*<sup>25</sup> Whom have I in heaven but you? And earth has nothing I desire besides you. <sup>26</sup> My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.*

**Philippians 4:11-13 NIV 84**

*<sup>11</sup> I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. <sup>12</sup> I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. <sup>13</sup> I can do everything through him who gives me strength.*

[7 Myths about Singleness](#) by Sam Allberry

[The Four Loves](#) by C.S. Lewis

[From Fear to Freedom](#) by Rose Marie Miller

**Psalm 139:1-18 NIV 84**

*<sup>1</sup> O Lord, you have searched me  
and you know me.  
<sup>2</sup> You know when I sit and when I rise;  
you perceive my thoughts from afar.  
<sup>3</sup> You discern my going out and my lying down;  
you are familiar with all my ways.  
<sup>4</sup> Before a word is on my tongue  
you know it completely, O Lord.  
<sup>5</sup> You hem me in--behind and before;  
you have laid your hand upon me.  
<sup>6</sup> Such knowledge is too wonderful for me,  
too lofty for me to attain.  
<sup>7</sup> Where can I go from your Spirit?  
Where can I flee from your presence?  
<sup>8</sup> If I go up to the heavens, you are there;  
if I make my bed in the depths, you are there.  
<sup>9</sup> If I rise on the wings of the dawn,  
if I settle on the far side of the sea,  
<sup>10</sup> even there your hand will guide me,  
your right hand will hold me fast.  
<sup>11</sup> If I say, "Surely the darkness will hide me  
and the light become night around me,"*

<sup>12</sup> *even the darkness will not be dark to you;  
the night will shine like the day,  
for darkness is as light to you.*

<sup>13</sup> *For you created my inmost being;  
you knit me together in my mother's womb.*

<sup>14</sup> *I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made;  
your works are wonderful,  
I know that full well.*

<sup>15</sup> *My frame was not hidden from you  
when I was made in the secret place.*

*When I was woven together in the depths of the earth,*

<sup>16</sup> *your eyes saw my unformed body.  
All the days ordained for me  
were written in your book  
before one of them came to be.*

<sup>17</sup> *How precious to me are your thoughts, O God!  
How vast is the sum of them!*

<sup>18</sup> *Were I to count them,  
they would outnumber the grains of sand.*

*When I awake,  
I am still with you.*