

Sunday Gathering Liturgy

The Anchor for Singles, 1
Corinthians 7:6-9, 25-35 -
Bradley Bell

August 21, 2022

Antioch Family 2022

Length in mins

0:00 Call to Worship - Isaiah 43:1, 4-7

We live in a world where many different winds of doctrine come our way on a daily basis. These doctrines try to tell us the way to the good life. For example, some say the way to the good life is by remaining single so that you'll be free to do whatever you want. Others say the way to the good life is by getting married so that you'll never be alone. But even though marriage and singleness can be part of the good life, neither of them are ultimate; neither of them fully define who we are; neither of them can satisfy the deepest needs of our souls.

Thankfully, there is an anchor of doctrine that points us to the truly good life. It begins with the one true God who created us for himself. Hear the word of the Lord from Isaiah 43, where God spoke of his Old Testament people, but can now be applied to all who follow Jesus Christ:

But now thus says the Lord, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. Because you are precious in my eyes, and honored, and I love you, I give men in return for you, peoples in exchange for your life. Fear not, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you. I will say to the north, Give up, and to the south, Do not withhold; bring my sons from afar and my daughters from the end of the earth, 7 everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made." Isaiah 43:1, 4-7

Whether you are here today single, married, divorced, or widowed, we all enter the world alone, and we all will depart it alone; we will all feel different measures of the kind of aloneness that God himself declared is not good. But here's what IS good, and worthy of our worship today: that we were made to be with God, and he wants to be with us, and he is enough to satisfy the deepest needs of our souls.

0:00 *Grace Alone* [Default Arrangement in E]

0:00 Confession - Revelation 19:6-7

Church, because we regard marriage so highly in a world that does not, sometimes we give off the vibe that marriage is the pinnacle of the Christian life. And yet we follow a Savior who embodied perfect humanity—as a single person. That means both marriage and singleness are completely viable ways to live as followers of Jesus; and that the pinnacle of the gospel is to be fully united to Christ forever. Read this good news for yourself from Revelation 19:

6 Then I heard what seemed to be the voice of a great multitude, like the roar of many waters and like the sound of mighty peals of thunder, crying out, "Hallelujah! For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns. 7 Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his Bride has made herself ready; Revelation 19:6-7

Marriage is a beautiful sign that points us to the SHAPE of the gospel. And singleness is a beautiful sign that points us to the SUFFICIENCY of the gospel. So rather than confessing that temporary, earthly things are what we live for, let's anchor our hearts in the great wedding to come, by confessing this eternal pinnacle for all who believe (from Revelation 19):

****Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.**** Revelation 19:9

0:00 *Christ The Sure And Steady Anchor* [Default Arrangement in D]

0:00 *Your Grace Is Enough* [G in G]

0:00 Evidence of Grace - Simple English Bible Study

0:00 Sermon - 1 Corinthians 7:6-9, 25-35

0:00 Communion - 1 Corinthians 11:23-28

0:00 *We Will Feast In The House Of Zion* [Default Arrangement in F]

0:00 *O Praise The Name (Anástasis)* [Default Arrangement in A]

Length in mins

0:00 Benediction - Matthew 22:30; Revelation 21:1-4

You may be seated. Thank you for joining us in today's gathering! We hope that you have experienced the welcome of Jesus.

Family Groups - We invite you to visit one of our Family Groups, which meet in homes throughout the week in order for us to grow in the context of deep relationships. If you would like to join one of them, there is info in the hallway, or talk with one of us and we'll make a direct connection for you.

Giving & Visitors - Also now is our time for giving—ushers please come forward. If you are a visitor with us this morning please grab a visitor card from the basket so that we can get to know you more. You can give it to someone with a lanyard or leave it in your seat, and the pen is yours to keep.

Antioch members, remember that giving is part of how we participate in God's mission. If you prefer to give digitally, visit our website or find us on GivApp.

Announcements

For everyone, here are a few ways to take the following steps:

1) 9 AM Classes - We are taking a short break from our adult 9 AM class, but Young Disciples and Youth will continue. Please note, that means there will not be 9 AM childcare for birth through kindergarten.

As we mentioned earlier, the Simple English Bible Class will continue next week in the Food Pantry room. If you're interested in helping or simply dropping in, see Matt Reynolds. There are flyers available if you'd like to invite someone.

2) Antioch Arts - Reminder that right after today's gathering IN THE YOUTH ROOM Antioch Arts will be having a luncheon. If you're interested in arts or creativity in any form—whether you are a maker or just someone who enjoys engaging with the arts—please stop by. This is not a team who produces art for the church, but an environment for growth and encouragement. If you have any questions on what this is all about, you can talk with Josh Thomas.

3) The Sexual Abuse Care Team - Also a reminder, the sexual abuse care team will meet today after the gathering IN THE TRAINING ROOM.

4) Fall Soccer - Finally, our Fall soccer clinics kick off on September 10th with four consecutive Saturdays, culminating with our all hands on deck Fall Soccer Festival on October 1st. There are flyers for you to invite neighbors.

We begin each gathering with a call to worship and we end with a benediction, which is simply a reminder that we are blessed to be a blessing.

Church, a great wedding, and a forever family await you. Therefore may you go sharing with one another a foretaste of that day, and inviting others to join in. Based on Matthew 22:30; Revelation 21:1-4

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God the Father and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

WE ARE SENT

0:00
