

# The Cure for Restlessness

1 Corinthians 7:17-24

# I Corinthians 7:17-24

<sup>17</sup> ...let each of you lead the life that the Lord has assigned, to which God called you. This is my rule in all the churches. <sup>18</sup> Was anyone at the time of his call already circumcised? Let him not seek to remove the marks of circumcision. Was anyone at the time of his call uncircumcised? Let him not seek circumcision. <sup>19</sup> Circumcision is nothing, and uncircumcision is nothing; but obeying the commandments of God is everything. <sup>20</sup> Let each of you remain in the condition in which you were called.

# I Corinthians 7:17-24

<sup>21</sup> Were you a slave when called? Do not be concerned about it. Even if you can gain your freedom, make use of your present condition now more than ever. <sup>22</sup> For whoever was called in the Lord as a slave is a freed person belonging to the Lord, just as whoever was free when called is a slave of Christ. <sup>23</sup> You were bought with a price; do not become slaves of human masters. <sup>24</sup> In whatever condition you were called, brothers and sisters, there remain with God.

Restlessness

Restlessness = sign that everything is not all  
right

Rest = sign of goodness, wholeness, harmony,  
and communion

Restlessness

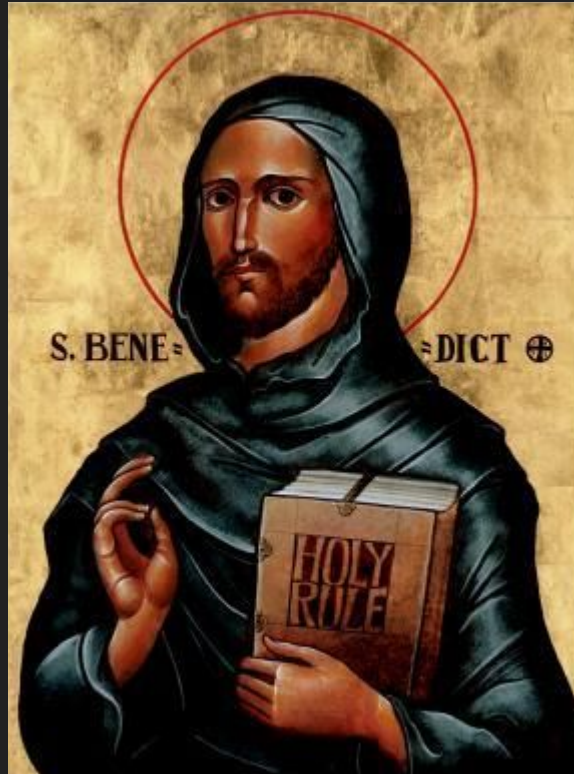
“Our hearts are restless until they find  
their rest in You.”

- St. Augustine  
(5th century)

Stability







St. Benedict  
480-543 AD

*“There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.”*

Galatians 3:28

*“There is no longer Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and free; but Christ is all and in all!”*

Colossians 3:11



# Callistus I

Bishop of Rome 217-224 AD

# I Corinthians 7:17-24

## Verse 24

In whatever condition you were called,  
brothers and sisters, there remain with God.

## I Corinthians 7:17-24

“...let each of you lead the life that the Lord has assigned, to which God has called you. This is my rule in all the churches. Was anyone at the time of his call already circumcised? Let him not seek to remove the marks of circumcision...

## I Corinthians 7:17-24

...Was anyone at the time of his call uncircumcised? Let him not seek circumcision. Circumcision is nothing, and uncircumcision is nothing; but obeying the commandments of God is everything.

Let each of you remain in the condition in which you were called.”

# “Call”

The invitation to entrust your life to  
Christ and His Body.



Paul's bias across the board is toward  
social stability

## I Corinthians 7:17-24

Vs. 21 - “Were you a slave when called? Do not be concerned about it. Even if you can gain your freedom, make use of your present condition now more than ever.

NIV - “Were you a slave when you were called? Don’t let it trouble you—although if you can gain your freedom, do so.”

“A Christian’s identity and value do not derive from social conditions but from the call of God in Christ.”

# I Corinthians 7:17-24

## Verse 22

“For whoever was called in the Lord as a slave is a freed person belonging to the Lord, just as whoever was free when called is a slave of Christ.”

# I Corinthians 7:17-24

## Verse 23

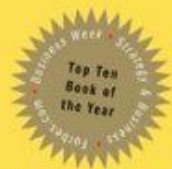
You were bought with a price; do not become slaves of human masters.

# I Corinthians 7:17-24

## Verse 24

In whatever condition you were called,  
brothers and sisters, there remain with God.

The cure for restlessness = more freedom??



# THE PARADOX OF CHOICE

## WHY MORE IS LESS BARRY SCHWARTZ

HOW THE CULTURE OF ABUNDANCE ROBS US OF SATISFACTION



"A revolutionary and beautifully reasoned book about the promiscuous amount of choice that renders the consumer helpless. A must read."

— Martin Seligman, author of *Authentic Happiness*

P.S.  
INSIGHTS,  
INTERVIEWS  
& MORE



# Maximizers vs. Satisficers

“...I was enclosed within the four walls of my  
new freedom.”

Thomas Merton

“What is it then to be stable? It seems to me that it may be described in the following terms: You will find stability at the moment when you discover that God is everywhere, that you do not need to seek Him elsewhere, that He is here, and if you do not find Him here it is useless to go and search for Him elsewhere because it is not Him that is absent from us, it is we who are absent from Him...

It is important to recognize that it is useless to seek God somewhere else. If you cannot find Him here you will not find Him anywhere else.”

Anthony Bloom

“In whatever condition you were called,  
brothers and sisters, there remain with God.”

“Jesus refused and said to him, ‘Go home to your friends, and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and what mercy he has shown you.’”

Mark 5:19

“In whatever condition you were called,  
brothers and sisters, there remain with God.”

# Pseudostability vs. Stability

- Pseudostability is staying somewhere out of shame or fear or cowardice
- Stability grows from faith



The Goal:  
stability of heart

“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.”

Hebrews 13:8

“But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us.”

Romans 5:8

The heart of God is restless until we're  
back home with Him.

While we're anxiously and restlessly trying to find God, the incredible news of the gospel is that He has come in search of us.