

To the single men of the church

Derk M. Koldewyn

who sit singly, as I do, on unkempt
beds in dingy small rooms among their own
litter and cast-off clothes; who slump
against walls watching late-nite TV instead
of cradling a loved wife in their withered arms,
or a new child, or a good book—to you I say:
nothing. Having nothing but my own experience
to offer advice, I cannot tell you how. I only know
how you want, and what you want, but
not where it is, or how to find it. Are you
bitter, as I am? Smile wanly and sit. Are you
desperate? Be quiet and calm and say nothing.
If this is what has brought you here, if you
want to do more, break out, think again:
This is all you can do. This is all you have done.