

5. What can you do to grow in gratitude?

6. Short of losing our “toys” that might be the primary source of our contentment, how might we mine our hearts to see if our contentment is in Christ, not his blessings?

7. Reflect on the four dimensions of knowing and experiencing Christ (see the outline of the sermon).

8. What can you do at this time in your life to grow closer to Christ?

**Learning Contentment in a Discontented World - Part 2**

“Why We Need to Learn to be Content” (Part 2)

Philippians 4:10-13

**Why We Need to Learn to be Content (Part 2)**

1. We are made in the image and for the glory of God who is content.
2. Contentment expresses \_\_\_\_\_ for God’s grace and rescue.

What does discontent expresses to \_\_\_\_\_?

Discontent in Genesis 3 -

We have here is a Satanic \_\_\_\_\_ on Adam and Eve’s contentment.

The Israelites in the wilderness (e.g., Exodus 17:1-7)

- A sense of \_\_\_\_\_
- A fundamental lack of \_\_\_\_\_

“Entitlement gets us nothing but heartache. It blinds us to what’s possible. It insulates us from the magic of gratitude. And most of all, it lets us off the hook, pushing us away from taking responsibility (and action) and toward apportioning blame and anger instead. ...There’s a simple hack at work here: We’re not grateful because we’re happy. We’re happy because we’re grateful.” (Seth Godin)

3. Contentment is an essential expression of \_\_\_\_\_ in God.

Genesis 50: 20 You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives.

Joseph trusted God's providential \_\_\_\_\_.

It's very difficult to determine if we're experiencing contentment because we're trusting God or because of the \_\_\_\_\_ we've received from God.

"What if God were to take away what currently makes you happy, like he took away Joseph's fancy coat and seat of honor? What if providence brought you to a pit?" (Erik Raymond)

#### 4. Contentment a by-product of \_\_\_\_\_ with Jesus.

##### Four Dimensions of Knowing and Experiencing Christ (Sinclair Ferguson)

- Dimension 1. "Everything we need and everything we \_\_\_\_\_ is found in Christ."
- Dimension 2. "This all-sufficient Christ is \_\_\_\_\_ us."  
  
Hebrews 13: 5 ...be content with what you have, because God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you."
- Dimension 3. "We are \_\_\_\_\_ this all-sufficient Christ."
- Dimension 4. "This all-sufficient Christ is \_\_\_\_\_ us."

##### Developing Intimacy with Christ

- We are \_\_\_\_\_ into loving Jesus.  
"Experiencing Jesus is found along a relational pathway with family, friends, and other people who love and experience Jesus." (David Kinnaman & Mark Matlock)
- Resist cultural Christianity, but seek the \_\_\_\_\_ Christ.  
  
It's about discipleship training and regular Godward \_\_\_\_\_ that open us to hear God speak to us personally through his Word and his Spirit and open us to his work in our lives.
- Fearlessly ask the \_\_\_\_\_ questions of life and pursue answers in Jesus.

A helpful resource for going deeper on your own in this series is Chasing Contentment by Erik Raymond.

### **Personal Reflection & Small Group Questions**

Please complete this study on your own, then bring it to your small group for discussion.

1. Looking back over your notes from this week's sermon, what particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?
2. Describe how a grateful person you've known exhibited their gratitude in daily life?
3. Read Exodus 17:1-7. What do you notice about the Israelites discontent?
4. How can you differentiate between the kind of grumbling the Israelites exhibited in the wilderness and bringing your complaints to God in a legitimate way?