

Godly Contentment Part 3 - "Contentment through Community" (5-30-21)

Introduction: Review - Key to contentment: Worshipping the God of true Peace

1) Content in our Identity

Colossians 3:11-12a (ESV)

(11) Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but **Christ is all, and in all**. (12) Put on then, as God's **chosen** ones, **holy** and **beloved** . . .

Note: We can have peace with who we are when we really understand who we belong to!

This was an anchor point in Jesus life . . .

Matthew 3:16-17 (ESV)

(16) And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; (17) and behold, a voice from heaven said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."

Note: Jesus' life was marked by his connection with his Father. Because he was rooted in his identity, then he could navigate any circumstance in the midst of living out his purpose, up to and including facing his death.

2) Content in our Family

Colossians 3:12-14 (ESV)

(12) Put on then, as God's **chosen** ones, **holy** and **beloved**, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, (13) bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. (14) And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in **perfect harmony**.

Note: We can learn & grow in contentment & receive peace through the community found in Church Family

- **Culture** - So much of our discontent comes from comparing to, living with, and trying to obtain acceptance from the community and culture around us.
- **Church** - Choosing to be anchored in our spiritual family, and working for peace there gives us a practical and tangible way to learn to be content with our place in this world.

Psalms 133:1 - "Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity!"

Practical Tips for learning to be content in the Family of God . . .

Colossians 3:15 (ESV)

And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful.

Colossians 3:16 (ESV)

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

Colossians 3:17 (ESV)

And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

3) Worship Response (Spiritual Discipline): Sabbath

Sabbath Rest - Solitude & Sanctuary . . . (From our summer series on Sabbath in 2019)

- **Solitude** – Worship in Private Devotion (Learning from Jesus to Pray in the Desolate Place)

Mark 6:30-34 (ESV)

(30) The apostles returned to Jesus and told him all that they had done and taught. (31) And he said to them, "Come away by yourselves to a desolate place and rest a while." For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat. (32) And they went away in the boat to a desolate place by themselves. (33) Now many saw them going and recognized them, and they ran there on foot from all the towns and got there ahead of them. (34) When he went ashore **he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion on them**, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. And he began to teach them many things.

Note: Jesus didn't get away to pray in order to "escape" people, but rather his heart was for people. Prayer, Solitude, and Rest were essential for him to be able to love people well.

- **Sanctuary** – Worship in Family Gatherings (Practice the presence of Jesus in loving community)

Jesus lived this with his disciples – Campfire conversations, Meals, Prayer, Worship, Serving, etc.

And as His followers adopted this same approach to life together after his ascension . . .

Acts 2:42-47 (ESV)

(42) And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. (43) And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. (44) And all who believed were together and had all things in common. (45) And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. (46) And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, (47) praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

Note: In our church context – our normal rhythms of Sabbath Worship are Sundays and Life Groups!

Sabbath Community

- It's **beautiful** – loving, caring, and generous community life
- It's **inconvenient**; therefore it's sacrificial
- It's **counter-cultural** (and counter to our self-centered lives)
- It's **life-changing** (for us and our community)

Conclusion: May we learn contentment as we are rooted in our identity in Christ, and established in His Family. Let's consistently practice Sabbath by resting in Jesus, & being refreshed by His Family!