

Godly Contentment Part 1 - "Settled or Settling" (5-16-21)

Introduction:

1) Am I content - What brings me peace?

1 Timothy 6:6 (ESV)

But godliness with contentment is great gain

- **Content:** sufficient, content, a satisfied mind or disposition, to be strong & able to assist someone

What brings me Peace?

- **Experiences** - vacation, hobby, etc.
- **Achievement** (success in work) - sense of accomplishment or even identity in success
- **Acquisition** (success in life) - comforts & control

What happens when I can't seem to reach or maintain peace?

Another alternative offered is a sort of detachment or practiced apathy - I learn to settle or cope

But that doesn't work either. The truth we need to face:

***Whatever steals my peace exposes my idols!**

2 Corinthians 12:9-10 (ESV)

(9) But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. (10) For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

Note: (sufficient is same word as content) The Lord showed Paul - true peace comes from reliance upon the one we worship! And if we worship the one whose grace is enough, then we have peace in any circumstance!

- The secret to being content and having peace is not chasing it or learning to just settling for less!
- True peace comes not from detachment, but attachment.
- Not from settling, but being settled in Christ!

Jesus doesn't just offer this - he lived it! (**Garden of Gethsemane**)

Mark 14:32-42 (ESV)

(32) And they went to a place called Gethsemane. And (Jesus) said to his disciples, "Sit here while I pray." (33) And he took with him Peter and James and John, and began to be greatly distressed and troubled. (34) And he said to them, "My soul is very sorrowful, even to death. Remain here and watch." (35) And going a little farther, he fell on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. (36) And he said, "Abba, Father, all things are possible for you. Remove this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will."

Note: Jesus lived and believed this so fully, it carried him through his death . . .

Luke 23:46 (ESV)

Then Jesus, calling out with a loud voice, said, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!" And having said this he breathed his last.

2) Peace through Attachment

Ephesians 2:13-14 (ESV)

(13) But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

(14) For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility

Note: By God's grace we have peace with him - We have been reconciled (or re-attached)!

Grace & Peace are linked over and over in the New Testament (a very common benediction):

From James Hastings Bible commentary:

Grace comprehends the sum of blessing bestowed, from God. **Peace** the sum of blessing experienced.

2 types of offerings - burnt offering (atonement) **& peace offering** (thanksgiving)

Psalms 100:1-5 (ESV)

(1) A Psalm for giving thanks. Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth! (2) Serve the LORD with gladness! Come into his presence with singing! (3) Know that the LORD, he is God! It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. (4) Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name! (5) For the LORD is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.

Note: Understanding the peace available to us, we make the sacrifice of praise and enter in!

Worship is our loving response to our Gracious God - it is purposeful, practiced attachment!

Romans 8:5-6 (ESV)

(5) For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. (6) For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace.

Note: What I set my mind upon (what I worship) determines whether or not I receive life & peace!

3) Worship Response (Spiritual Discipline): **Meditation**

Isaiah 26:3-4 (ESV)

(3) You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you. (4) Trust in the LORD forever, for the LORD GOD is an everlasting rock.

Meditate on His Word & His Ways:

Psalms 119:15-16 (ESV)

(15) I will meditate on your precepts and fix my eyes on your ways. (16) I will delight in your statutes; I will not forget your word.

Psalms 145:5 (ESV)

On the glorious splendor of your majesty, and on your wondrous works, I will meditate.

David (Psalm 63) - describes the connection between meditation and worship . . .

Psalms 63:5-7 (ESV)

(5) My soul will be satisfied as with fat and rich food, and my mouth will praise you with joyful lips,
(6) when I remember you upon my bed, and meditate on you in the watches of the night;
(7) for you have been my help, and in the shadow of your wings I will sing for joy.

Conclusion: Reflection/Meditation this week - **Psalm 16**

Read as part of the closing Prayer . . .

Psalm 16:7-11 (ESV)

(7) I bless the LORD who gives me counsel; in the night also my heart instructs me. (8) I have set the LORD always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken. (9) Therefore my heart is glad, and my whole being rejoices; my flesh also dwells secure.