

Introduction: What would it take for you to be content?

Definition: Content - Happy enough with what one has or is; not desiring something more or different; satisfied.

Webster's Dictionary

The Problem: The horizon is always moving.

Two Historical Solutions:

1. Conquer, achieve, and acquire until satisfied.

2. Desire less and less until it doesn't matter.

The Question: How can we be satisfied...today?

- **The Answer:** Philippians 4:10-13

- **The Occasion: A “Thank You” Note**

“I rejoice greatly in the Lord that at last you have renewed your concern for me. Indeed, you have been concerned, but you had no opportunity to show it.”

Philippians 4:10 (NIV)

“I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances.”

Philippians 4:11 (NIV)

“I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want.”

Philippians 4:12 (NIV)

“I can do everything through Him who gives me strength.”

Philippians 4:13 (NIV)

- **The Conclusion: Contentment is not a thing to be achieved, but a secret to be discovered.**

- **How?**

Four Principles – Four Practices:

- **Principle #1** - Our contentment is not dependent on our circumstances.

➤ Practice = _____ Philippians 4:10

- **Principle #2** - Contentment is an attitude we learn not a thing we achieve.

➤ Practice = _____ Philippians 4:11

- **Principle #3** - Prosperity does not have the power to give us contentment; nor poverty the power to take it away.

➤ Practice = _____ Philippians 4:12

- **Principle #4** - Only Christ has the power to give us a contentment that transcends all life's variables.

➤ Practice = _____ Philippians 4:13

Conclusion:

Contentment is not passive acceptance of the status quo, but the positive assurance that God has supplied one's needs, and the consequent release from unnecessary desires.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why is it so difficult to be genuinely content? What factors in our world make this so? What factors in our hearts make this so?
2. Why are both historical positions toward contentment doomed to failure?
3. Walk through each of the principles and practices and discuss how they relate to your present circumstances and attitudes about personal peace.
4. What action step will you take to reflect obedience to God's provision for your personal peace?
5. Take time to pray for one another in your group. Ask God to help each one to embrace His game plan for a life of personal peace.