

## DESTROY DISCONTENT

OCTOBER 10, 2021

### WORSHIP

No Other Like Jesus,  
The Power of the Cross,  
Christ is Enough

### WELCOME

What items do you want to add to your shopping cart in preparation for the year-end holidays? Will you most like stay within budget or go over-budget?

### WORD

#### PHILIPPIANS 4:11-13

<sup>11</sup> Not that I speak from need, for I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am. <sup>12</sup> I know how to get along with little, and I also know how to live in prosperity; in any and every circumstance I have learned the secret of being filled and going hungry, both of having abundance and suffering need. <sup>13</sup> I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.

There is this toxic reality called AFFLUENZA (affluence + influenza) affecting us. It describes our “modern-day plague of materialism”. We are overwhelmed with the many things around us and we also have that overwhelming desire to get a lot of these things. They result to discontent which is the lack of satisfaction with one's possessions, status, or situation.

**1 Timothy 6:6-10** unpacks discontent and how bad it can be. Once we see these symptoms, we need to hit them hard—**DESTROY DISCONTENT!** The Apostle Paul tells us how to do this in **Philippians 4:11-13**.

#### 1. BE AWARE. (Philippians 4:11)

To be content is not automatic. It is something that we need to be aware and work on.

From the very beginning, God created a beautiful scenario for Adam and Eve (**Genesis 2:16-17,25**). It was a perfect picture of contentment. They had everything and had fellowship with God. However, in **Genesis 3:1-6** there were discontentments being fed by the devil. Sin drives our discontent and disaster happened! This is why we need to be aware:

What are my discontentments right now and what's driving them?

#### 2. OVERHAUL YOUR PERSPECTIVE. (Philippians 4:11)

Paul goes on to boldly say that he is content in whatever circumstances. **2 Corinthians 1:8-9** and **2 Corinthians 11:23-28** narrate the circumstances Paul had prior to his present one. He had been through a lot of difficult and life-threatening circumstances.

Yet, look at how he looked or framed his circumstances. He is saying that God will not let us down (**Romans 5:3-5**). God will continue to come through for us (**2 Corinthians 1:9-10**). All the things that he had gone through are for good (**Romans 8:28**). We see the beautiful framing and overhauling of Paul's perspective.

Contentment is circumstance-neutral. We can be content whatever our circumstance is. We just have to redirect and reframe our perspective.

Paul even said to rejoice and give thanks in all circumstances (**1 Thessalonians 5:16-18**). Let us also thank God for the “un-changeables”: race, gender, skin color, birth date/order, and family. Embrace them!

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What circumstances do I need to reframe or be grateful for?

#### 3. OVERCOME THROUGH CHRIST. (Philippians 4:12-13)

Paul says that there is a secret to his contentment. The word content (autarkēs, Gk.) means to be sufficient for one's self, strong enough or possessing enough to need no aid or support. It is used only here in the whole Bible. In ancient Greece, the Stoic approach (completed detached) was a popular religious philosophy. It means that one can be completely self-sufficient. Paul wanted to radically shift from Stoic self-sufficiency to his secret, Christ-sufficiency. He is showing the contrast. If we really want to destroy contentment, it is not about us. It is about Christ-sufficiency.

Christ gives us the strength to destroy discontent. We can find true and lasting contentment through Christ who strengthens us (Philippians 4:13). He will never leave us despite our circumstances and discontent (Hebrews 13:5-6).

Christ is all we need (Philippians 3:8) and this is echoed in Psalm 16:11. "When Jesus is our sole satisfaction, we will have true satisfaction in our soul." (preceptaustin.org)

Are we fully content in Jesus? Or do we have a Jesus +? + relationships? + a good job? + a good school/good grades? + a successful business? + good health? + a new house / car? + a good family? + more money?

#### 4. MAKE IT HOLY. (Philippians 4:13)

Contentment is doing. It is not complacency. It is action. What should we DO? Pursue a "holy discontent". Make our discontent holy.

Paul says to Timothy that God doesn't want anyone to perish but instead to be saved (1 Timothy 2:3-4), which is further reinforced in 2 Peter 3:9. This is God's heart, His Holy discontent. He wants everybody to come to a saving knowledge of Him. This is what we should be doing just as what Paul did.

Paul shared this "holy discontent" of sharing the good news of the saving power of Jesus (Philippians 1:12, 1 Corinthians 9:19,23). God also wants us to continue to look to others and show His love (Isaiah 58:10-11).

How can we better pursue this "holy discontent"? What drastic things do we need to do?

Destroy the toxic reality of Discontent through Christ!

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

#### 1. Married couples/ parents

What is making you restless and discontented in your family, work/business, or other endeavors? What are the promises of God that you hold on to in relation to that?

#### 2. Single adults

What are you still longing to achieve or possess in life? Are there things that you are not giving or surrendering to God? Why?

#### 3. Children

How do you respond to your parents or other people when they say "No" or "Wait" to your request? What are you most thankful for right now?

#### 4. Everyone

What will you do this week to destroy discontent and pursue a "holy discontent"?

### WORKS

#### PRAY CARE SHARE IN ACTION

Pray for those who have not found real and lasting contentment to find it in Christ. Give to others generously and cheerfully whatever your circumstance in life. Share the good news that Jesus is all we ever need to experience true and lasting contentment in every season of life.

### WEEKLY PRAYER POINTS

#### I. Thanksgiving

Worship God for who He is, what He has done, and what He will do in our lives

#### II. Country and the World

Upright and moral governance of Public Servants  
A God-centered Philippines  
Repentance and Salvation

#### III. Church

That CCF Members would honor and love God and make disciples  
Elders, Pastors, Leaders, and Families  
Ministries and Churches worldwide

#### IV. CCF Facilities

Worship and Training Center  
Prayer Mountain

#### V. Personal Concerns

Deeper intimate relationship with God  
Righteous living  
Salvation of family and friends

### MEMORY VERSE

#### Philippians 4:11,13

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