

Contentment: What Is it and Why Is It so elusive?

Q: What is your definition?

Paul's insights:

Contentment is learned not acquired.

- Awareness
- Focus (Identity & Purpose)
- Application

It is independent of circumstances.

Verse 13 is about contentment – not success!

The Secret To Biblical Contentment

Understand what it is.

- The ability to handle anything.

Understand what it's not.

- It's not loving everything just the way it is.
- Lack of goals, drive,
- Giving up or giving in

Watch Out For "Contentment Killers."

The myth of greener grass.
Comparison & greed.
Negative people & things.

**Follow Jesus consistently, completely, expectantly,
and share the journey with others.**

We invite you to use these notes to continue the conversation throughout the week. Whether online or in person, we need to connect together! So take that Next Step and find yours today! <https://rlc.pub/groups>

Share your story

What insight, question, or resolution did you discover from our time of worship together on Sunday?

Have you experienced contentment apart from your circumstance? What was it like?

Why do you think this kind of contentment is so hard to come by?

Connect to God's story

If you haven't yet, take a few minutes and read Paul's letter to the Philippians and jot down anything that comes to mind as you read.

Read Philippians 4:10-14.

Paul mentions that he is not in need because he has learned to be content in every situation. What does it mean to be content? How does Paul define contentment?

In times of need or plenty, have you been able to experience God's strength in your life? How has that been a help in your times of need?

Read the following from Paul's letters and write down how he learned to be content from situation he mentions:

• 2 Corinthians 1:8-10

• 2 Corinthians 11:23-28

• 1 Timothy 6:6-10

Why is it that our stuff gets in the way of trusting the Lord?

Are you learning the secret of being content – relying only on God? Do you think becoming or remaining teachable is important in this process of learning to be content?

*Trust in the Lord with all your heart.
Do not depend on your own understanding.
Seek his will in all you do,
and he will show you which path to take.*

- Proverbs 3:5-6 (NLT)

Real Life Prayer for 2021

We have been on a journey together in 2020. We have prayed for a deeper, intimate, personal, and dependent relationship with all of God— Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

As we step into the new year let us build on all God has done, let us step boldly. Our word for Real Life church in 2021 is **impact**.

Lord, have impact in my inner self.

Lord, have impact in my trust in you and obey your leading.

Lord, have impact in the words of life and hope you give me.

Lord, have impact in my family.

Lord, have impact in our community.

Amen.

God has prepared us to be His light and life and to be an impact everywhere. Let the impact begin now!

Notes:
