

Title	contentment
Text	Philippians 4:10-14
Date	21 March 2021



The questions below are designed to be used by OCC LIFEGroups as they meet during the week following the Sunday morning message. The intent is not for groups to answer every question, but for leaders to use the questions as a guide as they tailor the discussion to the unique needs of their group.

The Sunday message and these questions can be found each week at occweb.org/sermons.

OVERVIEW

Paul continues to remind the church in Philippi of how to live as God's people, being content, being rooted and grounded in Christ.

TEXT

V	NIV	The Message	Good News Translation
10	I rejoiced greatly in the Lord that at last you renewed your concern for me. Indeed, you were concerned, but you had no opportunity to show it.	I'm glad in God, far happier than you would ever guess—happy that you're again showing such strong concern for me. Not that you ever quit praying and thinking about me. You just had no chance to show it. Actually, I don't have a sense of needing anything personally. I've learned by now to be quite content whatever my circumstances. I'm just as happy with little as with much, with much as with little. I've found the recipe for being happy whether full or hungry, hands full or hands empty. Whatever I have, wherever I am, I can make it through anything in the One who makes me who I am.	In my life in union with the Lord it is a great joy to me that after so long a time you once more had the chance of showing that you care for me. I don't mean that you had stopped caring for me—you just had no chance to show it.
11	I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances		And I am not saying this because I feel neglected, for I have learned to be satisfied with what I have.
12	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.		I know what it is to be in need and what it is to have more than enough. I have learned this secret, so that anywhere, at any time, I am content, whether I am full or hungry, whether I have too much or too little.
13	I can do all this through him who gives me strength.		I have the strength to face all conditions by the power that Christ gives me.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS.

CONNECT WITH YOUR GROUP

- How have you heard Philippians 4:13 misused?

Looking at the Text

Read **Philippians 4:10-14**

- Are there words, phrases or ideas that pastor Mike used that you didn't understand?
- What is one thing that stuck out to you from the message?
 - Paul distances himself from a complaining or grumbling attitude.
What do you find challenging in these verses?
- Contentment is learned over time (Philippians 4:11 "*I have learned...*")
 - Look back over some of the highs and lows of your life.
How has God tried to teach you contentment through the years?
 - Wisdom is knowledge put into practice.
Is it more natural for you personally to fill your mind with knowledge, or to fill your life with practice?
Why do you think that's true of you?
- Contentment is forged in our circumstances (Philippians 4:12 "*In any and every circumstance...*")
 - In the Bible (1 Timothy 6:6; Hebrews 13:6), we're told to be content with our financial situation. Are you?
Or do you find yourself saying, "If I could only have more _____, I would be content."
 - How would you respond to a friend who asked, "If God is so loving, why does He let difficult circumstances into my life?" Does this passage give any clues as to what one answer might be?
- Contentment is a secret known only to those in Christ (Philippians 4:13 "*All things in Him...*")
 - The secret of contentment is not Christ AND me, it's Christ IN me. What's the difference?
 - What's easier for you – to live Christ AND you, or Christ IN you? Why?
 - Are you looking for contentment in Christ, or in everything else?
 - How might God use your life of contentment to evangelize someone watching you?
 - Is the opposite also true? How might your discontented life have an effect on evangelism?
 - How do Paul's words speak to a culture of discontent & cynicism?

PRAY WITH EACH OTHER

Pray that we would know the contentment of being in Jesus in our circumstances and situations this week.

THIS WEEK

Read the letter/book of Philippians – it's only 4 chapters.

- **Connect Up:** As you connect up to Christ this spring, remember the things Christ has fulfilled in your life this past year. When was a time when you experienced God's power this year? How did He meet a need or fulfill a promise to you?
- **Connect In:** How have you connected to God's people in the church in 2020-21.
What are some of the benefits and challenges?
- **Connect Out:** Were you able to see someone come to Christ this past year? If so, what were the circumstances?
How does salvation show the following qualities: the use of people, God's provision, and His power?