

Philippians 4.10-20

WINDOWS INTO SANCTIFICATION:

CONTENTMENT

Growth in Christ is observed as fruit from abiding in Christ is displayed.

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GODLY CONTENTMENT FLOWS FROM CONTENTMENT TO LIVE IN & FOR CHRIST

Westminster Confession of Faith, 14.2

But the principal acts of saving faith are accepting, receiving, and resting upon Christ alone for justification, sanctification, and eternal life, by virtue of the covenant of grace.

Philippians 4 ¹¹ Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content.

ONE: Paul's circumstances and responses

TWO: Your circumstances and responses

Questions for thought/discussion/prayer?

1. What are the likely reasons Paul gives thanks to/for the Philippians' gift by taking 11 verses to stress BOTH his dependence on/contentment in Christ AND his appreciation for their gift? Why didn't he merely say *Thank you*?
2. Do you tend to be most content in Christ when your outward circumstances are going well or when you are in difficulties and trials?
3. Interact with the Westminster Confession's definition of saving faith: But the principal acts of saving faith are accepting, receiving, and resting upon Christ alone for justification, sanctification, and eternal life, by virtue of the covenant of grace. (WCF 14:2). Are you actively doing all three verbs with all three nouns?
4. Agree/Disagree: the gospel is foundationally more about redeeming and restoring us to the identity and purpose for which God created us than anything else; if you haven't changed your purpose and identity you may not really be believing the gospel.
5. How does Paul's life and ministry show that he struggled in coming to the contentment of Philippians 4.10-20?
6. Read Philippians 3.3-9 and consider how it leads to David Dickson's (1st Commentator on the Westminster Confession) statement: I have made a heap of all my bad works and of all my good works, and I have fled them both to Christ.