

Rockford Reformed Church
Sermon Series - "Time For Change" #12
Philippians 4:10-13 - "Making Mud Pies"
3/24/19 – Pastor Tim Meendering

1. Reflect on a time when God hit the pause button on your life so that he could bring some change into your heart. How did it lead you to go deep and examine your life? How do you see yourself focusing more on the "prospering" rather than "soul development"?
2. How would you rate (scale of 1-10) your level of contentment? What is your most common source of discontentment?
3. What do Mark 4:19 and 1 Timothy 6:8-9 say about the dangers of discontentment?

WHAT IS CONTENTMENT?

1. What contentment is NOT:

- a. What are some ways that you can see yourself being the "Stoic" who deals with circumstances through a self-sufficient, unflappable, tough, do-it-yourself perseverance? How does this impact your daily dependence on Christ?

2. What contentment IS:

- a. Contentment is _____-sufficiency.
 - What are some ways that you allow circumstances affect your contentment? If God were to strip away some of his most precious gifts, would you still be able to say that God is good?
- b. Contentment is a gracious, quiet _____ that rests in God's _____ for all my basic needs.
 - Why should we be satisfied or content with what we have but not with what we are?
 - What are some ways that your schedule, life or parenting may be stirring discontent for yourself or family rather than leading toward contentment? What steps could you take toward change?

HOW CAN WE LEARN TO BE CONTENT?

What does it mean that contentment is not being satisfied with little but instead being satisfied with a lot? What are the most common, daily "mud pies" for which you settle?

Two keys for holy contentment:

1. Humble _____ on Jesus for all that he _____.

- c. When you consider verse 3 of "Rock of Ages," what are the barriers that most keep you from getting weaned from self-dependence and finding grace through Jesus?
- d. What has Jesus done to provide you with the grace of contentment that carries you through whatever comes your way? What does God owe you? What does God offer and give to you? (See Romans 8:32.)

2. Passionate _____ of God's _____.

- a. When you read through Philippians 1 and 2, what is Paul's consuming passion and why was it his passion? What does this say about what should be our consuming passion?
- b. What do we receive through Christ and how should that change things for us (see Eph. 1:3-14)? If you were dying of cancer and then discovered the cure for all cancer, would you keep it to yourself and would your life remain unchanged? What cure has Jesus provided for you?
- c. What steps can you take to receive and then share the contentment that comes through Jesus?

Resources for further growth/study:

- *Chasing Contentment: Trusting God In a Discontented Age*, by Erik Raymond.