

## Chasing Contentment | 1 Corinthians 7:17-25

Only let each person lead the life that the Lord has assigned to him, and to which God has called him. This is my rule in all the churches. Was anyone at the time of his call already circumcised? Let him not seek to remove the marks of circumcision. Was anyone at the time of his call uncircumcised? Let him not seek circumcision. For neither circumcision counts for anything nor uncircumcision, but keeping the commandments of God. Each one should remain in the condition in which he was called. Were you a bondservant when called? Do not be concerned about it. (But if you gain your freedom, avail yourself of the opportunity). For he who was called in the Lord as a bondservant is a freedman of the Lord. Likewise he who was free when called is a bondservant of Christ. You were bought with a price; do not become bondservants of men. So, brothers, in whatever condition each was called, there let him remain with God.

## The Gift of Contentment

1. Our vertical calling
2. Our horizontal calling

## Contentment in the Wrong Places

## The Challenges in Contentment

1. Over-spiritualizing "calling"
  - a. "Too often we overspiritualize 'calling' and make it about self-expression instead of faithfulness to God and service to others. We search for the perfect job—just what we're 'called' to do—and use 'calling' as a trump card to replace perseverance, risk, and qualification." (Bethany Jenkins)
2. Under-spiritualizing "calling"
3. Chasing contentment is foundational to our identity
  - a. "...the discontented heart rages amid its busyness and worldliness. Whether explicitly or implicitly, this type of grumbling is directed at the One who is sovereign over such things. Grumbling and complaining, then, are a theological issue that casts God as incompetent, unfair, or irrelevant." (Erik Raymond)

## Benediction | Philippians 4:11-13

Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. I can do all things through him who strengthens me.