

Content With Our Job

Introduction

Read the following or relate it in your own words.

Contentment is such an important part of our lives, our entire lives. No person can be happy without being content in everything and with everything. And, to not be content is sin, and discontentment leads to other sins, and sometimes undesirable consequences. Contentment may even apply to the jobs we are given to do, as Jack finds out in the story.

The Scripture

Read the Scripture to the group.

“Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content.” —Philippians 4:11

A Real Life Example

Read the following or relate it in your own words.

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It was a beautiful autumn day and nine-year-old Jack was helping his dad change the oil in the family car.

“Hand me that wrench please, Jack,” his dad said. Jack found the wrench and handed it to his dad. He peered under the car at him.

“This sure is boring,” Jack sighed to himself. “I’d much rather be under the car helping than just standing here handing Dad his tools. It sure looks like it would be a lot more fun.”

“Why can’t I help you under the car, Dad?” asked Jack, impatiently. “I know I could do it,” he said. “It sure would be better than just standing here with these tools!”

“I need you to do your part by handing me the tools, Jack,” answered Dad. “Besides, some parts are still quite hot. I feel safer with you not under the car.”

“Aw, come on Dad, it looks safe enough to me,” said Jack.

“Hand me that crescent wrench Jack; I am almost finished.”

Jack handed his dad the wrench, and Dad finished tightening the drain plug on the oil pan, and slid out from under the car.

“All finished, Son,” said Dad as he slowly rolled out from under the car. “Now I’ll show you why I did not want you under the car with me, but would rather have you up here doing your part.” Dad held up his hand for Jack to see. There was a bright red spot on the back of his hand. Jack looked at the burn in surprise. He was not sure what to say. Dad looked at him and said, “I hope that you will learn to be content with your job. I would not like to see something like that happen to you if you had been under the car.”

Questions for Discussion

1. Why was Jack not content?
2. What did he want?
3. What did Jack’s dad want?
4. Why did Jack’s dad give him the job that he did?
5. What did Jack not know about the job that he wanted?
6. If Jesus always knows what is best for us, how should we feel about what we have now or what we get to do now?

Conclusion and Resolution

Read the Scripture again. Read or explain the conclusion in your own words. Ask the group to suggest what specific changes that they can resolve to make in their daily lives that will help them to implement needed changes in this area. Ask them to especially consider things they have learned in the Bible to use as scriptural guideposts to a more competent and productive life.

“Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content.” —Philippians 4:11

As the Scripture says, Paul had learned to be content regardless of what situation he was in, or what he possessed. This, too, should be one of our goals—to learn to be content with whatever, whenever, and wherever.

Teacher’s Notes
