

Stronger Together - The Comforted Life

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

Big Idea: We are stronger together as we help each other find our contentment in God

Ecclesiastes 4:11 - Again, if two lie together, they keep warm, but how can one keep warm alone?

1. What is the contented life?

- Contentment is an inner peace based on a trusting relationship with God.
- "Christian contentment is that sweet, inward, quiet, gracious frame of spirit, which freely submits to and delights in God's wise and fatherly disposal in every condition." - Jeremiah Burroughs.
 - **Our search for contentment is really desire for God:** Augustine: "Thou hast made us for thyself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until it finds its rest in thee."
 - **Not found in anything else:** Blaise Pascal: "But these [all the things we try and fill the void with] are all inadequate, because **the infinite abyss** can only be filled by an infinite and immutable object, that is to say, only by God himself."
- **Philippians 4:11-13**
- **Hebrews 13:5**

2. What does this trusting relationship look like?

- A trusting relationship with God is one in which I trust God to be God.

How do I trust God?

- **I trust God by recognizing his greatness. Matthew 4:10**
- **I trust God by acknowledging his goodness. 2 Corinthians 5: 21**
- **I trust God by pursuing his presence. Psalm 42:1-2**

3. How do we help each other find contentment in God.

- We help each other find contentment by putting on compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience; this makes us Stronger Together.

Colossians 3:12-15

Show Compassion to One Another

Showing love with mercy (goodness to those in distress and misery)

Jesus: Romans 11:32 For God has consigned all to disobedience, that he may have mercy on all.

Us: Show goodness to others, even if their own actions have put them in a predicament

Show Kindness to One Another

Showing love with gracious acts

Jesus: 1 Corinthians 1:4 I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus,

Us: Love others with undeserved acts

Show Humility to One Another

Showing love by preferring others

Jesus: Philippians 2:8 And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

Us: Prefer other people's wants and needs over your own

Treat One Another with Meekness

Showing love by not being impressed with your own importance

Jesus: Philippians 2:3-7 Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.

Us: Show love to others by not thinking too highly of yourself

Treat One Another with Patience

Showing love in how we react to others

Jesus: 2 Peter 3:9 The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.

Us: Show love to others by responding in patience

We find contentment as we trust God. We maintain contentment as we treat one other just as Jesus Christ has treated us. Being content with God and one another makes us Stronger Together.
