

SERMON APPLICATION GUIDE

1 CORINTHIANS: A BEAUTIFUL MESS

1 Corinthians 7:8–9, 25–40

DISCUSSION 1: CHRIST AND CONTENTMENT (7:17–24)

1. How do the following truths help us fight for contentment in Christ?
 - a. The Lord is sovereign over our circumstances (7:17).
 - b. If God has put us in a place, role, or relationship, he has called us to honor him there at least in this season (7:17).
 - c. We can still follow Christ and keep his commandments in any scenario (7:19).
 - d. We were bought by Christ and now belong to Christ (7:23).
2. The main idea from the sermon was: “The Christian can remain content in life because God’s calling is to a person, not a position or set of circumstances.” Why is remembering this important when we might have difficult people or unwanted circumstances in our life?
3. If discontentment is theological (rooted in a wrong belief about God), why do we need to fight by reminding ourselves what is true of God? How does thinking rightly about God or remembering His promises or His character help us fight discontentment?
4. What are some of the promises and truths about God to remember, cling to, and pray in light of as we fight against discontentment and for contentment?
5. What is one way this group can be praying for you to find contentment in Christ in this season?

DISCUSSION 2: CONTENTMENT AND DESIRE

1. Why do you think Paul encourages people to remain in their condition rather than trying to change their condition?
2. Desiring change isn’t always bad. How might we know if our desire for change has morphed into a sinful desire or even a demand?
3. How does Paul draw his exhortations from the fact that “the present form of this world is passing away” (7:32)? Why should we remember that this world is passing away and our time is short?

DISCUSSION 3: DEVOTED

1. How might our anxieties (7:32), worries, and fears often be connected to our desires or our discontentment? Why is recognizing this important for trusting God?
2. How do you manage some of the “worldly things” (or earthly responsibilities) so that you are faithful to your roles and relationships on earth while not neglecting the things that are most important?
3. Paul seems to prioritize our devotion to the Lord as the most important things, and then judges the value of earthly things by whether they encourage or distract from that devotion. What are things we might prioritize or give attention to more than our devotion to the Lord?

4. What is one way you can respond to this text, especially as it relates to trusting where the Lord has you, desiring to find contentment in him there, and seeking to be fully devoted to the Lord where he has you?