

## FINDING CONTENTMENT - PEOPLE

## PRECEPT

## GALATIANS 2:20

<sup>20</sup> I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

## JOHN 3:16

<sup>16</sup> For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

## HEBREWS 13:5

<sup>5</sup> Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you."

## PROMISE

Contentment is found in our relationship with Jesus; that is what Hebrews 13:5 declares. And one of the most important elements of that relationship is how God demonstrated His love for us through the death of Jesus. So often we invest our time in things we hope will turn around and give us the love we are seeking, but that love can only be found in God.

The good news is, God loves you! John 3:16 is perhaps the best-known verse declaring his love, but its popularity doesn't make it any less true: *"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life."* There are several key descriptions and actions here that are worth slowing down to focus on. For God ... what? He "so loved the world." The action of God sending Jesus was an action rooted in love. Why was Jesus born? Because God loves you. Why did Jesus live a perfect life on earth? Because God loves you. Why did Jesus teach us so many wonderful things about God? Because God loves you. Why did Jesus die on the cross? Because God loves you. Why did Jesus rise from the dead? Because God loves you. All of that is wrapped up in the declarative statement "For God so loved the world." God's love is giving in its nature. That's what John 3:16 tells us: He "so loved the world" that he did what? "He gave." He loved us and wanted to give us a gift, and not just any gift. Not something worldly, like we spend so much of our time pursuing, not a gift that in the end doesn't satisfy. No, He gave us His own Son. And the end goal of that gift wasn't death but "eternal life." Who is eternal? God is eternal. So if He loves us and gives us His Son so that we can also be eternal, what must that mean? That God wants to spend eternity with us. Eternity is a long time. In fact, it is an endless time. And yet, God wants to spend that with us. Despite all our imperfections, God loves us so much that He wants us to come home and be with Him forever.

And in John 3:16 He shows us the way home. It isn't through what we do; it isn't by the way we behave; it is simply a matter of belief. God's love is redeeming. It redeems us from the slavery we have sold ourselves to when we try to earn God's love by being "good" or by checking all the boxes. God wants one thing from us: believe in His Son. In Mark 4:26–29, Jesus tells a parable of how the kingdom grows. It doesn't grow by our craftiness or effort. Indeed, it happens while we sleep, and we don't know how it came to be. If we could find contentment in this life through our accomplishments, we would have already found it. There would be a buffet of options and all of them would work. If we could make ourselves right with God through what we do, all over creation we'd see perfection. But we don't. The only path to God is through belief, and the only place of rest we will find is in the love of God.

## PRACTICE

**1. Satisfaction in Life.** Have you ever experienced a moment when you thought you wanted something, only to get it and realize it didn't satisfy you the way you'd hoped? Describe that moment. What did you learn?

**2. God's Love.** How do you think God's love might satisfy you in the way you hoped that object, person, or career would have?

## PRAYER

## I. Young Couples

- Pray for these couples as they lead the Young Couples' groups: Imperial & Oliveros.

## II. Circles

- Pray for Manalo couple as they lead our youth and singles groups into the ways of Christ.

## III. North Life Groups

- Pray for these couples as they lead the North groups: Ocampo & Ico.

## IV. South Life Groups

- Pray for Drapeza couple as they lead the South groups.

## V. East Life Groups

- Pray for these couples as they lead the East groups: Domingo & Torres.

## VI. West Life Groups

- Pray for these couples as they lead the West groups: Solidum, Fabregas, and Gamboa.

## VII. Life Groups

- Pray that all of our church members be part of life groups and grow in their love for God & others.