



Pastor Toby Locke  
Week 16  
5/13/18

Thinking Right-Side Up  
In an upside-down World

## The Contentment Paradox

(Philippians 4:10-13)

Introduction: I hate "spiritual" clichés- but what if the cliché is true?

### Understanding the Paradox (4:10-13)

- Paul's Shocking Claim: I have EVERYTHING I need! (4:11)
- Objection: But you have LOTS of needs, Paul! (4:12)
- The Contentment Paradox: Needy people who get JESUS get everything they need! (4:13)
- Don't forget: this is a PROCESS! (3:12-14)

### Living the Paradox

- Get to KNOW Jesus. (3:8-11)
- Commit to START the Journey.

Conclusion: How about today?

### Icebreakers:

1. Name one "commonly held belief" that turned out to not be true when you really investigated it.
2. Okay...name a Christian cliché that drives you crazy and tell why.

**Sermon Summary:** It may sound like a cliché, but Paul was convinced that Jesus was literally all that he needed. His only "need" was to honor Jesus with his body, no matter what circumstance he found himself in, and he always found Jesus empowering him to do exactly that. Because of this he always claimed to be content, no matter what he had or didn't have. We need to get know this Jesus if we want to follow his example.

### **Discussion Questions:** (*Read Philippians 4:10-13 together.*)

1. Have you ever seen Christian clichés do damage to people? How?
- \* Understanding the Paradox**
2. How tough is "being content in all circumstances" for you on a scale of 1-10? WHY is being content so tough?
  3. Have you ever met someone like Joni Eareckson Tada, who has fully embraced the "Contentment Paradox" in the middle of their suffering (maybe it's not as dramatic, but you can tell it's REAL)?
  4. How can you tell that someone has made Jesus the central figure in their life?
  5. How does being truly content no matter the circumstance affect our testimony to the unbelieving world around us?
  6. When you hear Toby say: "Hey, don't worry, becoming truly content is a process", does that encourage or discourage you? Why?

### **\* Living the Paradox**

7. List some ways that we can "get to know" Jesus each day.
8. Which of the above comes most naturally to you? Comes hardest to you? Why is that, do you think?
9. What holds us back from just taking the plunge and getting started?
10. When you imagine meeting Jesus for the first time in eternity, what does it look like (yes, you have pastoral permission to use your imagination, just this once 😊)?