

Small Group Question
Phil 4.10-23

1. What are your fantasies about financial success? How much does money contribute to your actual contentment?
2. The sermon suggested that the image of the “modern contentment” is the assembling and managing of a “pie” of various factors. What does your “contentment pie” look like? If this is not a helpful image, what image represents your attempt to create and maintain contentment?
3. What are the aspects of Christ’s gospel that help you the most in grounding contentment on Christ? What keeps you from this? Are there pieces you see that you need add to this but that are hard realize? Can the group help you to see and feel these afresh so that Christ can better be the foundation of your contentment (e.g. New language, new approach, ways to come in the “backdoor”)?
4. *What are the values you use in regard to money? Where did they come from? By not saying “Thank you,” Paul was intentionally seeking to subvert his culture’s values about money. Brain storm about our cultural values with money. (Note: part of doing this is to flush out those values that we haven’t thought of but that may well be influencing us.) What are the cultural values of money that are most likely to conflicting with Christ, hurting you, or hindering living more fully in Christ’s Kingdom economy? What can we do about those, personally and in community? What are the values that Christ desires us to use with money?
5. One of the ways Paul works out a new type of Christ-centered relationship with the Philippians is by seeing it as a Triangle with the Philippians and himself on the bottom two points and God at the top point. Work out the design and implications of this triangle view of their relationship. Can you chart the various things from the passage, and implied in the passage, that move in different directions around the triangle? (For example: the Philippians give material gifts to Paul, but Paul does not formally give back material (or “thanks you”) back to them. Who gives back to them? What is given? V.17-19). How does such a model change relationships? Can this reality address any issues in your life? At Grace Hill?
6. *Pray about the individual items in this study where you’ve found Christ personally intersecting you (and your life) with challenge, comfort and hope.