

Pastor's Corner

May 2011

I ran across this devotional the other day and I thought that it was one to be shared. It is entitled "Learn to be content."

"...I have learned to be content with whatever I have... Phil. 4:11"

A story is told of a king who went into his garden one morning, and found everything withered and dying. He asked the oak that stood near the gate what the trouble was. He found that it was sick of life and determined to die because it was not as tall and beautiful as the pine.

The pine tree was all out of heart because it could not bear grapes like the vine. The vine was going to throw its life away because it could not stand erect and have as fine fruit as the peach tree. The geranium was fretting because it was not tall and fragrant like the lilac; and so on and on all through the garden.

Finally coming to a heart's-ease, he found its bright face lifted as cheery as ever. "Well, heart's-ease, I'm glad, amidst all this discouragement to find one brave little flower. You do not seem to be the least disheartened." "No, I am not of much account, but I thought that if you wanted an oak, or a pine, or a peach tree, or if a flowering lilac, you would have planted one; but as I knew you wanted a heart's-ease, I am **determined to be the best little heart's-ease that I can.**" (reprinted from L.B. Cowan's Streams in the Desert).

Each one of us is created in the image of God. No two of us were created the same. That is the marvelous and wonderful beauty of God. When we learn to stop trying to be someone or something else and seek to be the person whom God created us to be that is when we will become the best that we can.

Contentment is from God. Christ is the "Prince of Peace" and promises to provide us a peace that is not of this world because this world does not know true peace. Contentment does not mean that we must settle. God provides us with gifts and we must use these gifts for the glory of God. Contentment comes when we can say "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith..." (2 Timothy 4: 7).

We must never grow weary, and must remember that we were created in the image of God; so the next time you look into a mirror remind yourself that you are looking at God face to face.

Don't try to be an oak tree, or a pine tree, but be the person that God created you to be, and then you will find a contentment and peace that will abide in you forever.

Remember the words of Jesus, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you..." (John 14:27), and this comes from one who while on earth had no place to call his home. Think about it.

Eric

Rev. Eric Lane



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