

**Never Enough
Never Enough Affirmation
Small Group Notes- Week 3
January 16 and 19**

Main Point: Contentment is not having enough good things said about you, but what we say about the Lord!

Introduction: What is a time that someone tried to give you affirmation for something, but you rejected it? How did you feel once you realized it was affirmation with no wrong motives?

Context: In 1 Samuel, chapter 9-10, we see how Saul was made king over the children of Israel. Then in chapter 13, Saul tries to do good things, but he takes matters into his own hand and makes an unlawful sacrifice. Saul is eventually rejected as king and David is anointed by Samuel as the future king. When we come to chapter 18, we see how the people start to view David in comparison with Saul and there arises a false need for affirmation.

Group Video Discussion:

What was something that stood out to you from the sermon?

How did it challenge you? How did it encourage you?

1. Never enough affirmation occurs when we don't know who we are and we become a slave to what others think of us. Living for the praise of men over the praise of God is a blueprint for a discontented life.

When are times that you struggle with understanding who you are? Why do we often listen to others to tell us who we are instead of God?

2. There is a difference between flattery and affirmation. Affirmation is seeing faithfulness in someone else's life and telling them that you see it.

How is it easy to get caught in the trap of living for what others say about you? How can this bring about the most pain in your life?

3. God isn't judging you against someone else. Therefore, freedom comes when we see our neighbor as an object of grace and not a symbol of comparison.

How is it freeing for us to understand that God doesn't compare us against others? How should that impact how you live, work, and share your faith with others?

4. It's a good thing to hear what God says about you, but it's transformative to know about who God is. What gives you value is the person that ascribes you worth. God has given you value by what He says about you.

How can we often focus only on ourselves when we listen to God instead of focusing more on Him? How can understanding more about God transform your life? We can remind each other in our groups what God says about us.

5. The irony of contentment is not just declaring about what God says about us, but also declaring the right things about Him.

Spend some time just worshipping who God is. Read Psalm 145 as a group and celebrate the goodness of God.

Group Discussion:

1. Read 1 Samuel 18:1-13.

- Recognize the high cost of insecurity:
 - Insecurity can actually bring to life your greatest fears
 - Insecurity puts a tremendous strain on any relationship
 - Insecurity colors everything you hear
 - Insecurity leads to greater sin (Read 1 Samuel 22:18-19)

What point in the sermon helped you to understand about the cost of affirmation?

When are times that you feel the most insecure? How do you respond in these situations?

Has there ever been a relationship that was severed because of insecurity? What have been ways that you have found help to free you in moments of insecurity?

Read Psalm 145.

- So long insecurity:
 - Understand the difference between flattery and affirmation
 - Flattery is never enough while true affirmation breeds contentment.
 - Avoid the comparison trap
 - Comparison is the enemy of contentment (Read 1 Samuel 18:8-9)
 - Rivalry and covetousness are the rotten fruit of discontent.
 - Contentment is not found in what others say about you, but in knowing what God says about you! (Read Romans 8:37 and 1 John 3:1)

- Contentment is not just believing the right things about yourself but learning to declare the right things about God! (Read 1 Peter 2:9-10)
 - Hearing the right things about yourself will help you but speaking the right things about God will transform you!

Which point above really challenged you in how you view affirmation?

What are things in your life that currently keep you from reflecting on who God is? How does this psalm help you to focus on God?

How does understanding the nature of God impact what we do this week in our jobs, relationships, and families?

Do:

Share with someone in the group a way that you have been seeking affirmation in your life apart from God. Make a plan to text each other this week a verse that affirms who God is.

Spend some time in reflection about ways that you have been comparing yourself to others. Write down a way that you can start to be free from the trap of comparison.

Discuss ways that you can build trust that will help you to affirm one another in a biblical way, then act upon one of those actions this week.